

US suspends exports of grain to Russia

The United States has decided to suspend the sale of grain to the Soviet Union to show its displeasure over the invasion of Afghanistan. Mr Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary, left for Peking amid speculation that Washington could start supplying arms to the Chinese, who are helping Afghan resistance groups.

Envoy flies to China for Afghanistan talks

From Patrick Brogan and Frank Vogel Washington, Jan 4

President Carter has decided to suspend the sale of grain to the Soviet Union, according to informed sources here, some hours before he was due to make a televised broadcast to the nation.

The Soviet Union had a bad harvest last year, and has contracted to buy 25 million tonnes of grain from the United States this year. The use of the "grain weapon", one of the most potent in America's arsenal, was chosen as a means of putting pressure on the Soviet Union at a meeting of Mr Carter's senior advisers.

It involves a sharp reversal of the President's position. In 1976, one of his firmest election promises to American farmers was that he would not use the grain weapon. He told a television interviewer two days ago that the Russian invasion of Afghanistan had completely changed his view of the Soviet Union and he has now evidently decided to invoke the strongest sanctions in retaliation.

The President's decision will have immediate repercussions on domestic politics. Members of the Democratic Party in Congress, one of the nation's major grain exporting states, meet in caucus on January 21 to choose delegates to the party convention. The ban on grain sales to the Soviet Union will be highly unpopular in Iowa, and may lose Mr Carter the crucial support of the big farm belt of the Midwest.

A ban on grain sales would affect the Russians seriously because it involves a quantity that could not be obtained anywhere else in the world. Their diet would suffer if they lost it, as it is mostly needed to feed cattle, pigs and poultry.

Mr Harold Brown, the American Secretary of Defence, left for China this morning after breakfast with President Carter and other officials at the White House. The possibility that the moment might have arrived to "play the China card" was certainly examined.

Just what that means is not altogether clear, however. The suggestion has been that the Americans could start supplying arms to China, and that such a move would gravely upset the Russians. Reports from Pakistan suggest that China is arming resistance groups in Afghanistan, presumably with

Pakistani complicity, and Mr Brown may discuss these matters when he reaches Peking.

President Carter has taken some decisions on foreign policy in which the United States might respond to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and they will be announced shortly. It is thought that they might include a reduction in the number of Soviet diplomats permitted here and a revision of various bilateral agreements.

One such matter concerns the Soviet Kama river ferry factory, built with American assistance. It is believed here that the factory was used in the invasion came from the Kama factory. Critics of American trade with the Soviet Union opposed the sale of American technology to the Russians, on the ground that it might be used for anti-American or aggressive purposes. Their case would now seem to be proved, as the chances of any further sales of advanced technology thereby ended.

Mr Carter announced yesterday that ratification of the Salt 2 Treaty would be postponed indefinitely.

Meanwhile, the Administration has consulted congressional leaders about the resumption of arms sales to Pakistan. The danger from across the Khyber Pass is now so severe that the Americans have thought it necessary to reaffirm its public policy of opposing the sale of arms to Pakistan. The danger from across the Khyber Pass is now so severe that the Americans have thought it necessary to reaffirm its public policy of opposing the sale of arms to Pakistan.

Mr Tabbil, a former Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, said in a statement he read to reporters that the Soviet Union had violated Afghanistan's sovereignty and independence. He said he had not yet decided whether to seek political asylum in the United States, but expected to continue his membership of the International Law Commission and hoped to remain vice-chairman of the United Nations Palestine Rights Committee.

Mr Tabbil said his wife and three children were with him in New York and he did not fear for their safety. "Ruter. The West's opportunity, page 12

Leading articles, and Letters, page 13

Steel strike widens as TUC starts peace talks

By David Felton Labour Reporter

Union leaders were last night locked in talks with the British Steel Corporation in an attempt to end the three-day national steel strike.

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The meeting was arranged by Mr Murray as BSC was considering its reply to Mr Sir's challenge that they should make an offer on account of increased productivity. The unions have already rejected an offer of about 6 per cent, which the corporation says could be greatly increased if a productivity scheme is agreed.

Unions and management met for more than four hours and broke several times for separate discussions. Earlier in the day the union leaders had met at TUC headquarters ostensibly to discuss a Welsh TUC request for strong action.

With all iron and steel production in the public sector halted, it became apparent that Mr Sir's was having increasing difficulty in controlling some of his 90,000 striking members. In defiance of the confederation's policy not to involve the private sector steel companies, the 20,000-member Yorkshire and Humberside division of the union decided to start picketing the private companies.

Mr Stanley Sheridan, a member of the strike coordinating committee, said: "Feelings among the members have hardened and we have decided to picket all the private companies to make the strike more effective."

Of the 20,000 steelmen on strike in the region, more than 5,000 are engaged in picketing. Further support for the confederation and 12,000 blastfurnacemen came yesterday from Mr Harman Robbin, general secretary of the International Metal Workers Federation, who said in London: "We are putting a ring of non-strike around Britain."

The announcement by Mr Evans that the TGWU had made the strike official was not unexpected. A large number of his members had already stopped work.

Callaghan attack: Mr James Callaghan, who left London for Washington, attacked the Conservative Government's handling of the steel strike.

As the Opposition leader walked to his aircraft at Heathrow airport, he said: "I have no doubt I could solve the steel strike and have it back to work within a week."

"I have the contacts on both sides to get talks moving and to see that there is a just outcome. It is imperative that the strike is resolved."

Imports blocked, page 2

Decision could isolate Britain in world sport and imperil the Commonwealth Games

South African tour approved by English Rugby Union

By Peter West Rugby Correspondent

The committee of the Rugby Football Union decided in London yesterday to give English approval for the British Lions' tour to South Africa this summer. The Welsh are thought to have come to a similar conclusion on Thursday evening and now, with support from Scotland and Ireland already indicated, the four home unions' tours committee, at their meeting tomorrow, will have a unanimous vote for the tour to go ahead.

The decision will reverberate throughout the sporting world and, if the threats of the black nations in Africa and elsewhere are to be believed, will have some extremely unpleasant implications for British sport as a whole.

However, the rugby hierarchy in Britain is prepared to live with the consequences. There can be little doubt that opinions within it have stiffened considerably since the U.S.S.R. marched into Afghanistan.

A statement after the meeting said they had taken their decision after full debate and careful consideration of all implications. The RFU secretary, Air Commodore Bob Weighill, would not say if the decision was unanimous.

The die now seems cast for British rugby administrators not only to ignore the pleas of the Government but of other sporting bodies.

Sir Denis Follows, chairman of the British Olympic Association, said the decision sounded a death knell for the Commonwealth Games, due to be held in Brisbane in 1982. "The black countries," he added, "carry great voting strength in the Commonwealth movement and they will also be trying to get us kicked out of the Olympic Games."

"I don't think that will happen because the black African nations are in a minority in the Olympic movement and Britain has done nothing wrong. The British Olympic committee have adhered to the Gleneagles agreement. But it is clear that every effort will be made to hinder and aggravate our participation in Moscow."

Mr Dick Jeeps, chairman of the Sports Council, who leads a fact-finding mission to South Africa next Saturday (with Basil D'Oliveira, the former England Test cricketer, as one of his team) finds himself—as a former president of the RFU—in an unenviable position. "There seems little doubt," he said, "that Russia's involvement in Afghanistan has hardened the RFU's resolve. How much the threats we have heard made to British sport are a bluff I don't know."

"I just hope that the RFU's decision will not cause those who have agreed to talk to us in South Africa to change their minds. If we find that sport there is still not organized on a multi-racial basis then we would hope that public opinion might still force the four home unions into a rethink about the tour."

Mr Paul Stephenson, the one black member on the sports council, was emphatic that Mr Michael Steele-Bodger, one of the four RFU representatives on the four home unions' tours committee, "should now in all honour resign."

Mr John Disley, a former Olympic steeplechaser and a vice-chairman of the Sports Council, saw Britain being isolated in sport after sport. Mr David Shaw, secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board, declared that the RFU's decision was highly inconsequential to the whole sporting world.

Continued on page 16, col 6



Joy Adamson with Elsa, who featured in 'Born Free'.

Lion kills author of 'Born Free'

From Charles Harrison Nairobi, Jan 4

Joy Adamson, whose books "Born Free", "Living Free" and "Forever Free", telling of her work with lions in Kenya, had a worldwide readership, was killed by a lion in her safari camp in the Sabana game reserve, 250 miles north of Nairobi.

Mrs Adamson had been working in a remote area of Kenya, continuing her research on wild game. She achieved fame with her books on the lioness Elsa, who was brought up by Mrs Adamson and her game warden husband, and later was returned to the wild. "Born Free" was made into a successful film.

Reports from the area said Mrs Adamson was out walking near her camp early today when she saw a buffalo being stalked by a lion. The lion apparently turned on her.

Mr Ellis Monks, executive director of the World Wildlife Fund and a director of Elsa Limited—a trust company established by Joy Adamson to further wildlife conservation—said in Nairobi: "We are greatly shocked. She will undoubtedly be missed as one of the greatest contributors to wildlife awareness and conservation that Kenya has ever produced."

Born in Austria, Mrs Adamson, who was aged 69, lived for many years with her husband George in remote parts of Kenya.

Obituary, page 14

Rhodesian guerrillas rush to beat deadline

From Frederick Cleary Salisbury, Jan 4

There appeared to be a last minute rush by Patriotic Front guerrillas tonight to assemble at rendezvous points in Southern Rhodesia by the midnight ceasefire deadline.

With six hours to go the number of Zania and Zipra guerrillas to have reported was said to be 9,000. That was an increase of 1,000 since this morning and sources close to the Commonwealth monitoring force said the number of men coming in was increasing fast. Zania forces comprises 6,000 of the 9,000 and Zipra forces the rest.

Close to Lord Soames, the Governor, said that the exercise had gone well although there were difficulties. There had been cooperation between all the forces concerned.

One military source said the number of guerrillas reported in will not be known until midday tomorrow at the earliest. It is expected that Lord Soames will indicate on Sunday what his policy will be towards those guerrillas who refuse the ceasefire offer. Sources said tonight there would definitely not be an extension of the ceasefire period but the position would be treated sensibly.

The rendezvous camps will be closed tomorrow morning and the monitoring forces moved out. Guerrillas still outside will not be attacked indiscriminately and their treatment will depend on their conduct.

Problems encountered so far include attempts to stage victory marches, intimidate local people and send out electioneering leaflets. Overall, lawlessness in the country has decreased although a Rhodesian Military Command communiqué tonight reported several cases of robbery, attempted murder and intimidation.

A grenade was thrown into the Salisbury home of a leading member of Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu. Mr James Bassoppo Moyu was away at the time. His wife was slightly injured.

Guerrilla fears, page 4

Nurses disappointed with Clegg award giving rises of 19.6%

By John Roper Health Services Correspondent

Nurses are awarded an average salary increase of 19.6 per cent, at an estimated cost of £311m, in the report of the Clegg commission on pay comparability, published yesterday. Their leaders expressed disappointment at the amount.

Mr David Williams, chairman of the staff side negotiating committee, said he thought nurses everywhere would be disappointed. They had worked for nurses to be paid on a professional basis comparable to male pay rates, and on that reckoning the increase should have been about 59 per cent.

Merely to restore nurses' salaries since the last big award 25 years ago would have meant a 25 per cent increase. The value of nurses' salaries was still being eroded. The Clegg recommendations were based on a 37-hour week, although nurses would continue to work 40-hour week until April, 1981.

Miss Catherine Hall, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said: "The report is very disappointing and fails to come up to our expectations and aspirations."

The one element to be welcomed was that ward sisters, although not coming out as well as was hoped for, had done better than most with a 25 per cent increase.

Mr Stephen Johnson, assistant organizer for health services staff, National and Local Government Officers' Association, said that the 19.6 per cent fell well short of many public sector settlements. The union was appalled that some nurses would get no increase at all, both in the top and bottom grades.

The Royal College of Midwives had "mixed feelings" about the report. No recognition had been given to the extra training, qualification and skill required by midwives, it was stated.

Mr Robert Jones, of the National Union of Public Employees, said the union was concerned that future erosion of salaries had been left to the Whitley Council, which fixes nurses' pay. Given the Government's present policy on public expenditure, that was a recipe for disaster.

The management side of the Whitley Council said that the award addressed the serious erosion in nurses' pay over the past few years. A Clegg chairman of the Standing Commission on Pay Comparability, said he thought the findings should have a favourable effect on the recruitment of nurses, which had "fizzled out" after a substantial improvement as a result of the £200m Halsebury award to nurses six years ago.

The increase will be paid in two equal stages, from August, 1979, and from April 1 this year. Ward sisters in the top of the seven pay grades will get an increase from £4,819 a year to £6,024 and those on the first grade from £2,539 to £4,698. Staff nurses now will rise from £3,020 to £3,715 in the first grade and from £3,683 to £4,530 in the top grade.

Enrolled nurses, earning £2,720 at first and a maximum of £2,251, will have rises to £3,346 and £4,036.

But nursing auxiliaries and student nurses will receive only about £3,000 a year in the top grade.

The profession is now preparing evidence for its next pay claim, to be submitted in April. There are about 491,000 nurses and midwives in the health service, of whom about 42,000 are men.

The Government has already undertaken to honour the Clegg report, and the rates of pay recommended will be implemented on the agreed dates.

Standing Commission on Pay Comparability, Report No 3, nurses and midwives (Stationery Office, £2).

Teachers' claim: Teachers' leaders are to press for an immediate 10 per cent pay rise for the 482,000 teachers in England and Wales after the decision of the Clegg commission not to produce an interim report on teachers' pay (our Education Correspondent writes). Professor Clegg told teachers' leaders yesterday that he would not be able to complete the necessary research in time to produce an interim report this month.

The commission would therefore press on with its work to produce a full and final report. Teachers are claiming a 38.7 per cent increase to restore the pay parities established by the Houghton Committee in 1974.

The International Year of the Child has done a little to focus attention on the problems of deaf children. But unfortunately their problems won't just come to an end because the year has ended.

They're always going to have difficulty communicating; to understand what people say, and to speak to people, will be a lifetime struggle.

Deaf children need your understanding and your help. Only then they become less isolated and lonely. With our limited resources, the RNID run a hostel and training centres for deaf children, a special school and also residential homes.

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For deaf children the struggle is only just starting. So please do not turn a deaf ear to their plight this year. Or next year.

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Gold slips to \$590 in profit taking

By David Blake Economics Editor

The panic for gold faded in London yesterday with the price dropping \$40 to close at \$590 an ounce. But as the day drew to a close, signs that the world's money markets remain profoundly worried about the state of the dollar.

In New York, gold closed only 57 cents down on Thursday's price at \$602. There was a late rally, after a prolonged reverse which had taken the price down to \$573 an ounce earlier in the day.

Dealers were watchful and trading generally erratic, with prices at one point climbing to \$621.

Once again, overnight business in the Far East, particularly Hong Kong, set the zone for trading in London. Gold was weakened considerably by profit taking, as some who bought at a lower price converted their notional gains into real money, and by rumours about a United States Treasury sale of gold.

It was suggested that the American authorities were about to sell off 6 million ounces of their stocks of gold in an effort to strengthen the dollar and drive down the gold price all in one.

There was no hint of confirmation of the rumour during yesterday's trading in London, but the simple fact that it had been mentioned helped to calm the markets.

Gold opened down in London and the morning fix was set at \$596 an ounce, sharply lower than the overnight close of \$630. The dollar did better against most European currencies, even without the help of the substantial central bank support which was given on Thursday in an effort to prop it up.

Sterling fell slightly against the dollar during the day, closing at 2.2380. Its effective exchange rate compared to 1971

Continued on page 17, col 5

Mr Maude sees revival of pride

Britain's standing in world affairs has gone up because of the foreign policy activities of Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, according to Mr Angus Maude. People understood there had been a change and felt proud about it, Mr Maude, Peymaster General and minister responsible for coordinating the Government's information services, said yesterday. In an interview on the BBC radio programme, *The World at One*, he said he was satisfied that the Government's policies on the economy and the steel dispute were beginning to be understood.

The sea has claimed the lives of three more fishermen from Buckle, Grampian. The third boat in seven months has gone down, bringing the death toll from the port to 16. The trawler Bounteous capsized off Cornwall while mackerel fishing. Three of the crew were saved.

\$40m loss for Talbot
Talbot Motor, formerly Chrysler, is expected to announce losses of about \$40m in 1979, a company spokesman said. Strikes and the suspension of deliveries of Paykan components to Iran are blamed.

Close call for Marines
Admiralty papers released at the Public Record Office disclose strong opposition by the Royal Navy in 1949 to a senior civil servant's suggestion that the Royal Marines and the Wrens be disbanded as an economy measure.

Radioactive waste pipe springs leak
A leak has been discovered in a pipe carrying radioactive waste out to sea from the nuclear reprocessing centre in Sellafield, Cumbria. The use of the pipe has been stopped while repairs are carried out. The French authorities consider that there is no danger as the levels of radioactivity close to the leak are only slightly increased.

Home students pledge
The Government plans to keep the present number of places for home students in higher education. Mr C. S. Secretary of State for Education and Science, said. He denied that there would be fewer opportunities for school-leavers to study for degrees.

Iranian street riots
Followers of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian religious leader, and those of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, his Azei-bajani rival, have rioted in Qom. Each group tried to attack the home of the other leader. The riots lasted all day despite both leaders' appeals for calm.

Israel farm scandal
A political scandal is brewing in Israel over an 875-acre farm in the Negev desert, owned by Ariel Sharon, the Agriculture Minister. He steadfastly refuses to relinquish control of the farm.

EL pay talks: Negotiations end in "total disagreement" but unions and management deny breakdown
Public school fire: Damage is estimated at more than £50,000 after Uppingham boarding school blaze.

Leader page 13
Letters: On Afghanistan, from Mr Christopher Dickinson, and others; on Stansford airport, from Sir Henry Marking.
Leading articles: Grain as a weapon; On the North-West Frontier; State of the professions.

Features, page 12
Afghanistan: the West's opportunity, by Fred Emery; Philip Howard on Everyman; Edmund Akenhead's crossword review.
Puzzlebooks of the month, page 6

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MP 'appalled' by decision not to prosecute police over death of James Kelly

By Craig Seton

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Mr Kenneth Oxford, the Chief Constable of Merseyside, said yesterday that the case papers would now be sent to the Police Complaints Board and the corner who adjourned the inquest into Mr Kelly's death.

The DPP made his decision after considering a report by Mr David Gerry, an assistant chief constable of the West Midlands Police, who was called in by Mr Oxford to investigate the circumstances of Mr Kelly's death. The police said he was found unconscious on a wall.

Sir Thomas said the evidence did not justify criminal proceedings against any police officers, but last night Mr Michael Meacher, the Labour MP for Oldham, West, said he was appalled by the decision. "The impression given is of a total whitewash," he said.

Mr Kelly died after his arrest on June 20 by Merseyside police officers as he was going home from a local public house. His family accused the police of brutality and said witnesses had seen Mr Kelly being beaten by police officers.

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He's deaf. Maybe next year you'll be too.



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HOME NEWS

Government's message 'getting through' on tough economic policy

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Public support for the Government's tough economic measures is not declining, according to Mr Angus Maude, Paymaster General and minister responsible for coordinating the Government's information services.

As a result of Mrs Thatcher's activities in Washington and over Rhodesia, and their latest initiative on the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, they had built up Britain's standing in world affairs.

"The people's reaction to this is very positive. They really do understand that a change is coming about and are rather pleased and proud about it," said Mr Maude, who was interviewed on the BBC radio programme, *The World at One*.

Mr Maude rejected a suggestion that the Government was not getting across effectively its message about economic policy and in particular its significance in the steel industry dispute.

"I am satisfied that the message is beginning to get through, but in my view actions speak louder than words and it is only when the results of policies are seen that

people will be totally convinced."

A year ago, the British Leyland ballot could not possibly have gone the way it did. A year ago there would have been no chance of the mineworkers voting down a recommendation from their executive to go on strike over a pay deal.

There was not the slightest doubt, he said, that the message was getting through. Parliamentary and local elections, and political opinion polls, did not suggest that the public reaction had been very bad, considering the unpopular things that the Government had been doing.

If we could become competitive in our industries, if we could improve our productivity, and the Government would do everything to create the climate in which that could happen, we could begin to create new wealth and new jobs, and people would see the results of the Government's policy.

Mrs Thatcher, he said, would be talking on those subjects in an important television interview in the *Weekend World* programme tomorrow.

Praise for Mrs Thatcher defended by preacher

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

A Methodist minister said yesterday that he did not regret preaching from the pulpit on the virtues of Mrs Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister.

The Rev Brian Cooke, aged 45, circuit minister at Nether-ton, Dudley, West Midlands, said that his sermon to mark the new year had not pleased all his congregation. A few had walked out, and one woman had stopped the sermon and addressed the congregation herself while Mr Cooke stayed in the pulpit.

Mr Cooke said: "I do not know who she was, but one of my lay preachers also spoke out. I think it is all very sad,

because at the end of a decade I thought it appropriate to mention social and political problems which affect us all. I wanted to speak about those we have all faced during the past 10 years."

"I support some Conservative policies, but not all, and I particularly praised Mrs Thatcher for her character and forthrightness. I do not make a habit of talking about politics from the pulpit, but the occasion seemed right."

The Rev Nigel Gibson, chairman of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist district, said: "This is a domestic matter and ought to be left as such. A minister chooses and prepares his own material."

Businessman plans flight to a record

By Sara Bonner

Next week a London reinsurer hopes to travel around the world not in 80 days but in under two, entirely on scheduled passenger flights.

If he succeeds, Mr David Springbett, aged 41, will knock seven and a half hours off the record for a circumnavigation of the world on scheduled flights, established in 1978 by two Australian journalists.

Mr Springbett's 23,068-mile route involves more stops than theirs did, but he thinks his juggling with timetables to the BSC World Airways guide shows more "entrepreneurial dash" as well as giving him the fastest route with the best chance of not going wrong.

He plans to take off from Los Angeles at 7 pm on Tuesday and fly to London, Bahrain, Singapore, Bangkok, Manila, Tokyo, Honolulu and back to Los Angeles, hoping to arrive at 5.05 pm on Thursday, a round trip of about 46 hours, compared with the current record of 53 hours, 34 minutes.

Mr Springbett will fly in Concorde for part of his journey and among the airlines he will be flying with are SAS, Pan Am, Northwest Orient and Thai International.

His tight schedule does not allow for much delay in arrivals and take-offs, but he has taken



Mr David Springbett: His attempt on a world record takes off on Tuesday.

precautions in the event of fog, strikes or other hazards.

If he misses a connection and the attempt is abandoned, he has booked the same trip for the next week to ensure a second chance of breaking the record.

Mr Springbett says he is one of the most travelled businessmen in the world. His total mileage to date is 2,373,026 on 1,555 flights. Last year he travelled 303,395 miles.

He regards this as good training for the 46 hours or so he will be flying. Jet lag holds no terrors for him, though he admits he finds it difficult to sleep on aircraft. To question what he calls the "jet-lag myth", he will be interviewed by British Airways before and after the trip.

As he is travelling first class he expects to eat well.

Sea claims another three from Buckie

By Alan Hamilton

The sea has claimed three more sons of Buckie. A third boat in seven months has gone down, bringing to 16 the number who have sailed out of the busy, prosperous, fishing port in north-east Scotland and have not come home.

Early yesterday the 56ft trawler, Bounteous, on its first trip to the rich Cornish mackerel grounds after the new year holiday, foundered less than a mile off Mousehole, near Penzance and sank within a minute of capsizing. Three of her crew, including her skipper, were lost, and three saved.

A search by the Penlee lifeboat, a flotilla of other craft and helicopters from RAF Culdroe proved fruitless.

The three men lost were Mr Edward Phinister, the skipper, aged 30, married with two children; Mr Russell Hillier, aged 27; and Mr Joseph Bowie, aged 26, of Buckie, Grampian.

Three others of the crew were pitched into the water and rescued by another Scottish fishing vessel, the Loranthus. They were Mr Alexander Phinister, aged 22, the skipper's brother; Mr Alexander Sammon, aged 24; and Mr Alexander Murray, aged 19, whose father is chairman of the fishermen's association in Buckie.

Mr Murray, who had travelled by road to Cornwall from Buckie with the rest of the crew to join the Bounteous, said: "It was all over in a few



The survivors from the Buckie trawler, Bounteous (from left) Alexander Murray, Alexander Phinister and Alexander Sammon, recovering at Newlyn Seamen's Mission.

seconds. One moment the three of us were on deck bagging fish; the next moment we were in the water. There was no chance for us to hang on to anything.

"It turned completely over, almost before we had time to realize anything was wrong. The others must have been trapped and pulled down with her."

Mr Murray, who has been a fisherman for two years, was on his first trip with the Bounteous. Yesterday his father was at the drowned skipper's home in Buckie, comforting the family.

There is as yet no explanation for the capsizing. Rescuers

said there were only moderate seas at the time.

Buckie, a small port on the southern shores of the Moray Firth with a population of 7,000, which lives almost exclusively from boats and fish, has reason to fear the vengeance of the sea. In June the trawler *Corinthia* sank off Orkney with the loss of six men. Then, last month, the *Buckie*, owned by Ocean Monarch, disappeared in the North Sea, and seven men with it.

It is a heavy toll for a small town, whose fishing fleet numbers barely a hundred boats.

In the past two seasons the fishermen of Buckie, in common with their brethren in

other Scottish ports, have been driven by a fishing ban from their traditional herring grounds to seek white fish off the Shetlands and Norway, and many have changed their hand at the Cornish mackerel, a long sail but a profitable one, with East European factory ships at anchor waiting to buy.

For the modern trawlers of Buckie, used to the angry waters of the northern North Sea, Cornwall was an exceptional voyage. But for the Bounteous, barely a year old, and for three Buckie families, it was a grim reminder that fish is the last food that Western man still hunts in the wild.

Moving of imported steel blacked at two ports

From Nicholas Timmins

The Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday blacked movements of imported steel out of the east coast ports of King's Lynn and Boston.

The blacking was imposed after a meeting in King's Lynn between local TGWU officials and steel workers on a flying picket from Corby and Sheffield steel works.

Despite the arrival of the pickets, the steel workers believe that about 100 tonnes of steel was shipped out of the docks through a gate they did not know of before the meeting took place.

But Mr Roger Ward, the King's Lynn TGWU district secretary, and Mr Barry Cooper, the Boston district secretary, said after the meeting that no further imports would move out of the docks during the strike.

Mr Michael Skelton, the Corby strike coordinator, said he was "delighted" by the decision.

But in the two hours after the pickets left, at least six trailers loaded with imported steel left the King's Lynn dock area. Mr Maurice Loades, the lorry owner, denied that the steel was going to customers.

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The Corby picket is likely to return on Monday in case it does arrive.

Two 600-ton shipments from Germany and Belgium are also due into Boston on Monday, and Mr John Aljwell, the assistant port manager, said that in view of the TGWU decision he expected the steel to be unloaded but not moved out.

For those ports, particularly King's Lynn, where steel makes up 25 to 30 per cent of the port's trade, the embargo could be serious if the strike is prolonged.

Mr Skelton said flying pickets from Corby could be sent to private steel companies and stockholders in the Midlands next week.

Under the Government's Employment Bill, now going through Parliament, employers would be able to sack workers through the courts against the type of picketing seen yesterday at King's Lynn.

The pickets were unhappy over Thursday's suggestion by Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, that the strike could be called off in an advance payment was made on BSC's proposal for local productivity schemes.

Picketing stepped up: Long traffic queues built up at BSC's huge steel works at Ravenscroft, Leamington, as steelmen stepped up their picketing yesterday (the Press Association reports).

It took some employees more than an hour to get into the plant, as the queue stretched for more than half-a-mile. Scotland's steel workers do not end their new year break until Monday and yesterday's action was aimed at staff, maintenance men and other non-ISTC workers.

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Rugby shirt clue to bodies found in raft

A rugby shirt and a tin of sardines could help police to identify the couple found in a lifeboat south-west of Land's End on Wednesday.

The shirt, with maroon, black and white hoops, was found on the man, who had ginger hair and was aged between 25 and 35. An unopened tin of Portuguese sardines with the name "Oceano" was in the woman's sardine "jacker" pocket. She was aged about 20.

A post-mortem examination yesterday showed that they had drowned.

A clue is that the black raft had been serviced at Beauforts, Bournemouth.

Eam DEC grant: The EEC announced yesterday it would give Britain about £5m to help workers affected by closures or short-time working at steel plants (Reuters reports from Brussels).

The 1949 Cabinet papers-4

Admirals saved Royal Marines and Wrens

By Peter Hennessy

It is a brave man who takes on a great, established national institution, as Sir Kenneth Berrill found in 1977, when his Central Policy Review Staff suggested ways in which the Foreign Office might arrange itself more economically.

Admiralty papers released at the Public Record Office this week under the 30-year rule reveal the horror with which the Royal Navy greeted a senior civil servant who had the temerity to suggest that the Royal Marines and the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Wrens, should be disbanded as an economy measure.

The Chiefs of Staff commissioned a secret study on the future size and shape of the Armed Forces from a working party led by Sir Edmund Harwood, a senior official at the Ministry of Food, who had spent a year in 1947 as Civilian Director of the Imperial Defence College. The Harwood report, top secret at the time, caused an eruption in the Admiralty. In a brief for Lord Hall, First Lord, to take to a meeting of the Standing Committee of Service Ministers on July 5, 1949, the outrage of the admirals received written expression: "The Admiralty, it read:

Accept the principle advocated by the report that we should adopt a plan of reorganisation for the Forces over a period of years rather than continue the policy, which has perhaps been inevitable during the years of rundown from war strength, of living from hand to mouth and making do with what we have got... but the Harwood committee have relied upon a very steep rise in defence expenditure after 1952-53 in order

to achieve readiness for a possible major war by 1957. Their lordships took particular exception, however, to the Harwood recommendation that the Royal Marines and the Wrens should be replaced, where necessary, by seamen and all their "special establishments" closed down."

The Admiralty objection to the abolition of the Royal Marines as a part of the naval service is based partly on the view that the day would affect adversely the fighting efficiency of the Navy and partly on the damage to morale both of the Navy and of the public generally that would result from such a measure. A contributory reason is that the Royal Marines include provisions for bands required for the naval service.

The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, chaired a special Cabinet committee, GEN 296, on Armed Forces savings on July 5, which, after a rambling discussion, contented itself with the general recommendation that all concerned should address themselves to the possibilities of effecting economies. In November the matter came back to the Cabinet's defence committee.

In another brief for Lord Hall, next to the Harwood recommendation of disbanding the Admiralty had written: "Royal Marines and WRNS are not to be abolished and this point does not now arise." The Royal Marines were safe, at least for another 25 years, when their extinction was discussed as part of the Government's defence review of 1974. The public will have to wait until January, 2005, to see how they saw off the threat on that occasion.

Monday: The cold war comes home

Failure to agree in BL pay talks

By Clifford Webb

Crucial pay talks between the BL management and unions representing 90,000 car workers ended in "total disagreement" last night after more than 100 hours of negotiations spread over the past three months.

But both sides refused to admit a total breakdown.

Mr Grenville Hawley, of the Transport and General Workers' Union and leader of the union side on BL's joint negotiating committee, said: "We have achieved only minor changes in the company's proposals on new working practices."

"They will not budge on pay. We have exhausted our mandate as negotiators and must go back for further instructions."

He will be reporting the impasse to a meeting of 400 senior shop stewards in Coventry next Thursday.

Asked whether the response to any concessions by the management would be a call for a strike, Mr Hawley said: "It is possible. But what we are not going to do is destroy BL."

"The most important thing is to protect the jobs of our members."

Throughout the negotiations the unions have insisted that BL should replace its 5 to 10 per cent pay offer (according to grades) by a flat-rate increase for all. The management is anxious to improve differentials to attract skilled workers for its new car programme.

Request to delay inquiry on A-waste

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A request was made yesterday for an adjournment or re-constitution of the public inquiry in the proposal by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority to drill a borehole for possible nuclear waste disposal in the Galloway hills.

At a meeting at Ayr town hall Mr Kelvin MacDonald, representing the Town and Country Planning Association, proposed an adjournment while the terms of reference were broadened to include a proper examination of national and international policy on nuclear waste disposal programmes.

He regarded that proposal as second best to cancelling the inquiry in favour of a national inquiry at a later date.

He cautioned anyone against believing the inquiry was considering merely the temporary intensification of small-scale industrial use into a remote and unspoiled area.

Trains delayed by derailment

High Speed Train services between London and south Wales were affected yesterday when six empty freight wagons were derailed outside Parkway station, Bristol. The main line was blocked in both directions for several hours.

Electric signalling and point equipment was damaged.

Girl killed when table lamp fell into bath

A girl aged seven who died on Thursday evening after a table lamp fell into the water while she was having a bath was named yesterday as Simone Kirkham, of Brandwood Road, King's Heath, Birmingham. She was in the bath with her younger sister.

Hearing screams, Mrs Kirkham, the girls' mother, ran into the bathroom and tried to revive her daughter.

The Midlands Electricity Board declined to comment yesterday on the accident, but board officials are preparing a report for the coroner. It is understood that during rewiring the bathroom was temporarily lit by a table lamp on a window sill.

MP condemns Mr Powell's attack on Foreign Office

By Our Political Correspondent

Tactics used by Mr Enoch Powell, official Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South, to "smear" the Foreign Office for allegedly working against the wishes of the majority in Northern Ireland to satisfy the United States, the Vatican and the Irish Republic, were attacked yesterday by Mr Raymond Whitney, Conservative MP for Wycombe and a former diplomat.

In an open letter to Mr Powell, commenting on his speech at Dundonald, Co Down, on Thursday, in which he described the Foreign Office as "that nest of vipers, that nursery of traitors," Mr Whitney said he would be the last

Ulf Andersson meets strong attack to keep chess lead

From Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

The lead in the ICL grandmaster chess tournament at Hastings was still in the hands yesterday of the Swedish grandmaster, Ulf Andersson, with 5½ points. He is followed by Spelman, Leln, and Makarychev, all with 4½ points. Andersson's lead is not as secure as it looks, as he has a certain draw.

Liberson attacked Andersson strongly from the start in round seven, but the tournament leader met that attack steadily, and went over to the counter attack in the middle game. An extraordinary position was reached in which Andersson had a queen for three minor pieces, and a draw was agreed after 35 moves.

Makarychev chased Mosto's king in the open, and the former British champion resigned on the twenty-eighth move when mate was inevitable. Leln soon established a winning position

Central Belfast shaken by bomb attack

Explosions shook central Belfast last night in the first bomb attack on the district this year.

A number of premises in Donegal Street were attacked. Two buildings were set on fire. Earlier an RUC officer was injured in a shooting incident in the Antrim Road area.

In another incident, a Roman Catholic man aged 21 was found dead in a derelict garage in Shankill Road, Belfast. Police think the motive was sectarian.

The map from the Shankill area, had been beaten to death on his way home from the city centre.

Move to rescind academic title of Professor Blunt

By a Staff Reporter

The convocation of London University, which represents all graduates, is to debate on February 9 a motion petitioning the university Senate to rescind the title of Emeritus Professor conferred on the former Sir Anthony Blunt.

Professor Blunt, who was his retirement in 1974 from the posts of director of the Courtauld Institute of Art and Professor of History of Art at the university.

The motion is to be proposed by Professor P. A. Lindsay, Professor of Physical Electronics at King's College.

Minority people 'safest in groups'

From John Charrres

Lancaster. The safest place for minority people to live during sectarian conflicts is in a grouping of their own people, a speaker said at the conference of the Institute of British Geographers at Lancaster University yesterday. Dr Russell Murray, of Exeter University and formerly of Queen's University Belfast, added: "The bigger the ghetto, the better."

He presented a paper to the conference examining the geographical distribution of 82 "doorstep" murders in Belfast between 1969 and 1977. He said that figures he had collated proved that the people most at risk were Protestants living in Roman Catholic areas, followed by Catholics living in Protestant areas. Protestants living in Protestant areas were the safest.

He suggested that his findings had clear implications for English cities in the light of the increase in attacks on racial minorities.

"Doorstep" murders, Dr Murray said, were significant, because they appeared to have a greater public impact than most killings. "The other sites of civilian deaths, pubs, streets and other buildings, are anonymous, impersonal places that an individual can usually avoid if he wishes. Your home is the one place above all where you should be safe."

It seems likely that the shock effect is in many cases one of the killers' objectives. In these cases the victim appears to have been singled out, there has been a deliberate decision to kill a particular person at a particular location. Yet where the victim has been a civilian the choice has not

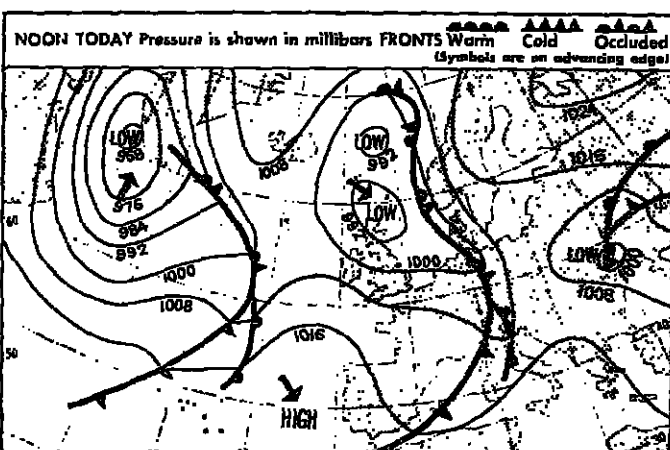
been made on the grounds of who they are as individuals, but of what and where they are.

In many attacks, on pubs or groups of workmen, on members of the security forces on patrol, the intention seems to be to kill Catholics, or Protestants, or soldiers, but not to kill a specific known member of one of these groups.

The civilian victims of the doorstep murders, on the other hand, have been singled out, not, as far as any outsider can tell, because of any unique personal features. In the jargon that has been adopted in Northern Ireland, these are sectarian murders.

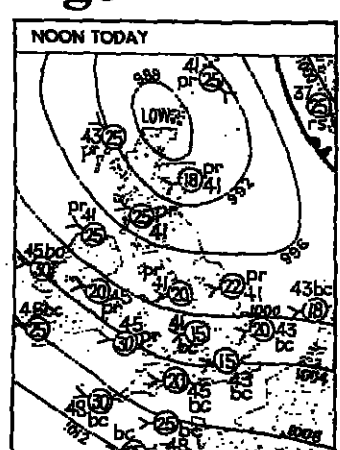
He suggested that some of the earlier doorstep murders represented a "purification" or "clearing the deck" operation of the kind that occurred at the outbreak of any conflict.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Sun rises:	Sun sets:
	8.6 am	4.6 pm
Tomorrow	Sun rises:	Sun sets:
	8.5 am	4.7 pm
Today	Moon rises:	Moon sets:
	9.42 am	7.40 pm
Tomorrow	Moon rises:	Moon sets:
	9.28 am	7.52 pm

Lighting up: 4.36 pm to 7.35 am. High water: London Bridge, 3.29 am, 7.11 am, 3.52 pm, 7.26 am. Avonmouth, 9.28 am, 12.71 pm, 5.21 pm, 8.53 am, 12.01 pm, 5.18 pm, 8.21 pm, 11.58 pm, 4.51 pm, 8.00 pm, 1.24 am, 4.51 pm, 8.00 pm, 1.24 am, 4.51 pm, 8.00 pm, 1.24 am.



Today	Sun rises:	Sun sets:
	8.6 am	4.6 pm
Tomorrow	Sun rises:	Sun sets:
	8.5 am	4.7 pm
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HOME NEWS

Mr Carlisle denies cut in college places

From Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent
Durham

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, denied yesterday that government spending plans would mean fewer opportunities for school-leavers to study for degrees in universities and polytechnics.

He said that government plans for the next few years provided only for a maintenance of the present number of places in higher education for home students at a time when the size of the 18-year-old age group was continuing to increase, but pointed out that fewer school-leavers were wanting to embark on degree courses.

The proportion of 18-year-olds going into higher education had dropped from 14.2 to 11.8 per cent over the past seven years, he said in a speech on the final day of the North of England conference on education in Durham.

The most probable explanation was that many able young students were going straight into jobs in industry and commerce. "This does not seem to me necessarily a bad thing," Mr Carlisle said.

He believed that school-leavers who want to go into higher education will continue to have as good an opportunity as at present. "It is added, places in non-advanced further education, which had increased by 60 per cent since 1971, will be allowed to increase still further under Government spending plans."

Economic constraints would increase the need for a rationalisation of provision between the university and the maintained further and higher education sectors, he said. Each sector should concentrate on its existing strengths. In the universities that would mean a "renewed emphasis on academic objectives."

Turning to the curriculum in schools, Mr Carlisle said that "we cannot afford to maintain the status quo." The Government, in conjunction with its partners in the education service, would have to work out what would constitute "a realistic and responsible policy in the light of national and local needs."

(On Tuesday the Government will publish its views on a national framework for the curriculum in schools and a discussion paper on the curriculum, drawn up by the Schools Inspectorate.)

Mr Carlisle was at pains to emphasize that the Government was not seeking to dictate in detail what must be taught in schools. He believed that the Education Act, 1944, was right in giving control of the curriculum to the local authorities, and that they were right in delegating much of that responsibility to individual schools and their teachers.

Nevertheless, the Government had a duty to satisfy itself that the work of schools matched national needs. It believed, for example, that all pupils should study mathematics, English, a science, and a modern language up to the age of 16.

One of his biggest worries was the serious shortage of teachers of mathematics, the physical sciences, craft, design and technology, and modern languages, he said. He did not believe there were any quick or easy answers, but he did feel that local authorities could make better use of existing specialist teachers in schools.

Thirty-eight per cent of qualified mathematics teachers, 57 per cent of qualified physics teachers and 30 per cent of qualified chemistry teachers were not teaching their specialist subjects.

Mr Carlisle said he totally rejected the philosophy of "despair", which argued that because we could not have more resources we could not have teachers to provide for the kind of developments that a nationally agreed core curriculum would require.

Fire at Uppingham School does £50,000 damage

From Our Correspondent
Leicester

Fire swept through a boarding house at a public school near Leicester early yesterday, causing considerable damage. The fire broke out in the headmaster's house, which is a detached building, and spread to the main school building.

The fire was discovered by two teenagers at 1.15 am. It was quickly brought under control by the fire service, but the damage was estimated at £50,000.

Fortunately the staff and the 50 boys who are usually in the building were not there because of the Christmas holiday.

It was the third fire in three years at the school.

Archbishop and bishop plead for Bangladeshi

A Bangladeshi man deported from Britain on Monday should be allowed to return as soon as possible, the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, and the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, said yesterday.

The appeal by Mr Glas Uddin, aged 19, to be readmitted to Britain should be examined carefully and expeditiously so that he could return as soon as possible to his family and friends, they said in a statement.

The Home Office said he was an illegal immigrant and not the man he claimed to be.

The state of the professions—4: Growing concern about mistrust

Worried associations seek new public image

By Ian Bradley

Certain concerns are common to the professions. The poor level of general education in schools is one; confidentiality is another. Social workers and doctors in particular are increasingly worried about misuse of private records and the wider accessibility that computerization will bring.

There is also general concern that, prompted by politicians and the public, the professions are becoming less inclined to accept professional judgments and increasingly taking recourse to litigation against professional practitioners.

That may not be a bad thing. There has long been concern about how far professional associations such as the Law Society, which has the function of protecting their members' interests, can adequately fulfil their other role of following up the public's complaints and censoring misconduct.

However, many professional people are worried about the effect of public mistrust. Mr Dennis Walker, a former president of the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors, regards the main threat to members' livelihoods as coming from increasing and often vexatious litigation by clients.

The British Medical Association is worried about the recent decision to allow the Health Services Ombudsman to investigate clinical decisions.

The BMA astutely welcomes Lord Denning's recent judgment in which he found an obstetrician not liable for the brain damage suffered by a baby he had delivered, that in a professional man an error of judgment was not negligence. But it is concerned that, like other recent judgments by the Master of the Rolls, it may be overruled.

Perhaps the greatest common concern among the professions is the sense that they lack a strong collective voice with which to speak to the Government.

The point was clearly made in a letter to *The Times* in March, 1977, when the heads of 11 professional institutions attributed the suffering of the professions through incomes policies to the fact that the Government had been able to formulate policy "without including the professions in the process of consultation."

An attempt to form the professions into a more effective lobby was first made in 1976. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone asked: "If there can be a Confederation of British Industries, why can there not be a confederation of British professional associations?"

In 1978 a rather more successful attempt was made. A group of independent associations that were registered as trade unions, including the BMA, the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers, and the Association of Polytechnic Teachers, formed the Managerial and Professional Staff Liaison Group after they had unsuccessfully made individual representations to the Government about pay and taxation.

The group, which comprises 17 professional associations, with a further 13 as observers, has not yet scored any big successes in influencing Government policy, although it helped to kill a private member's Bill that sought to alter the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to ignore the views of workers who did not belong to trade unions.

Dr Maurice Gillibrand, chairman of the group, says that the present Government is taking more notice of its views. Although he hopes that with a single common voice the professions may make more impact on the Government, Dr Gillibrand has been most struck since he became chairman by the low esteem in which the professions are held in Britain compared with their status on the Continent.

The group is affiliated to the European Confederation of Acadres. When the confederation met in Rome recently, delegates had an audience with the Pope and a reception with the President of Italy.

"In Britain, people representing the professions and management are lucky to see a junior minister," Dr Gillibrand says.

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Farming 'quango' given reprieve

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

A farming "quango" which costs £2m a year has been reprieved by the Government. But it will have to accept changes in structure before it gets more money.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday that a new executive board for the Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation had been recommended by two independent members.

One of the advisers was Mr John Cross, a member of the council and chairman of one of the most successful farm cooperatives in Britain.

With 150 boards lined up side by side and a 50ft long bar soaked with 20,000 points of light, the old and new Royal Horticultural Halls in London were turned yesterday into two vast public houses for the start of the sixth British open darts championships.

A record 2,000 competitors, most from Britain and some from 12 other countries, have gathered for three days to try their hand at what is one of Britain's most popular pastimes, with an estimated five million regular players.

With the lure of prize money totalling £50,000, the championships, sponsored by Watneys and M.J. Darts, the sports goods manufacturers, show that darts are no longer just a flick of the wrist over a pint.

The television lights, track suits emblazoned with names instead of the traditional pub attire of tatty jeans, and the sponsorship lend strength to the boast of Mr Oly Croft, general secretary of the British Darts Organisation, that darts are now a recognized and professional sport.

The man who put the game on the sports map, Mr Croft, has seen darts-playing grow in 10 years to its present quota of 20,000 professionals and semi-professionals, who can earn up to £50,000 a year, the setting up of national teams, world championships and the influx of women.

This year women account for a quarter of the entrants, including one of just two professional women players, Miss Jan Dewar, aged 22, of Powys, who started playing when working as a barmaid. "It was something to do before people came in," she says.

Playing with the locals led to playing for Wales, and from there to world championships. This year she hopes to reap £20,000-£25,000.

For the men finalists over the weekend there is a £50,000 jackpot for the first to achieve a total of 501 in nine darts, the minimum possible, and never achieved in a televised competition. The world record stands at 10 darts.

But those not in the top league can take comfort from the fact that anyone making the top 64 places wins either £10 or £15, and for the rest there is always the beer.

Darts may be getting more professional, but pub darts will always survive, Mr Croft says. "Pubs and darts go together. Everyone here has started in a pub, and if you go out now into the street, pubs and clubs are the only places you can get a game."

Photograph by Alan Davidson

An eye for the bullseye: Maureen Flowers, favourite to win the ladies' championship, getting in some practice yesterday.

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AFGHANISTAN

Mr Karmal gives promise of new constitution soon and attacks US-inspired 'hullabaloo' over coup

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 4

The Afghan Foreign Minister flew to Moscow today for a "cordial and comradely" talk with Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, before going on to New York to attend the Security Council meeting on Afghanistan, called by Britain yesterday.

Mr Shah Muhammad Dost declared before he left Kabul that his country strongly opposed any discussion of the "Afghan question" which, he said, did not exist.

He said the entire Afghan people welcomed the Soviet assistance. To distort the fact or misinterpret Afghan policy constituted in itself interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Today the Russians denounced the Security Council meeting, and said the Americans had only been able to arrange it by putting pressure on small countries and collecting signatures from their military allies and dictatorships such as those in Chile, Haiti and Honduras.

Tass news agency said the letter was also signed by China,

which recently invaded Vietnam and was now virtually the sixteenth member of Nato.

The purpose of the meeting, a commentary said, was to denigrate Afghanistan's peaceful foreign policy and undermine Soviet-Afghan friendship. It was also intended to divert international attention from the aggressive actions against other countries by the United States and its allies.

Meanwhile Mr Babrak Karmal, the Afghan leader, brought to power by the Soviet-backed coup, made his first public appearance in Kabul today and thanked the Russians for their military aid, which he said was "fully in keeping with the will of the Afghan people".

At a press conference, attended exclusively by East European and local journalists and reported today by Tass, Mr Karmal said Soviet foreign policy was based on peaceful co-existence and equal cooperation with other states.

"Soviet-Afghan relations are a vivid example of relations of the new type among equal and independent states," he said. The "propaganda hullabaloo

raised by imperialist circles" against the alleged interference of the USSR in Afghanistan's affairs was a "premeditated provocation, an obvious lie."

The United States was searching for an excuse for its own defeat.

President Carter had declared that Amin was the lawful President of Afghanistan. But, Mr Karmal argued, it was known that former President Taraki had been elected president by the people, and Taraki was killed by "murderers Amin".

It can be asked if the person who killed the head of state elected by the people can be a "legal" President? he said. Both Tass and the Afghan news agency said after Mr Taraki's overthrow that he had been suffering for some days from an "incurable disease" which had killed him.

UN objections: Mr Shah Muhammad Dost, wrote to the President of the Security Council today urging him to prevent discussion of his country's affairs by the council.

The request for the meeting was made last night by 43 council members, mainly from Western and Muslim countries.

Kabul rejoiced at Amin execution

From Richard Balmforth
Delhi, Jan 4

The Afghan official smiled at the three Western correspondents arriving at Kabul airport and said: "Welcome to Afghanistan. Which hotel would you like to stay in tonight before you are expelled tomorrow?"

Out on the airstrip behind him as he spoke, two Soviet olive-green helicopters took off and wheeled away over the snow-capped mountains ringing the Afghan capital.

Soviet armoured personnel carriers and tanks manoeuvred freely near the Aeroflot Tupolev T54 which had brought us to Kabul from Moscow.

The traditionally hospitable people of Afghanistan choose their words of welcome to Westerners carefully since the coup on December 27 which installed Mr Babrak Karmal as President and brought Soviet troops flooding into the capital.

It is plain that events have stunned most Afghans and put them under strain in dealing with foreigners. In the 24 hours we were held under virtual arrest in the city's intercontinental hotel sitting at the airport they were clearly embarrassed at having to side-step questions over the political situation in their country.

"You understand I can say nothing. You understand that, don't you?" one Afghan airport official said plaintively.

According to a Western aid worker in Kabul, Afghans had grown increasingly in contact with foreigners since the beginning of Marxist rule in April, 1978.

From the background of a steadily growing rebellion by Muslims against the new Marxist policies and in a climate of arbitrary arrest and detention, particularly under President Hafizullah Amin, ousted by the coup and executed, there is now no longer close contact between Afghans and Westerners.

At the same time according to Western sources in Kabul, strong anti-Soviet feeling has gradually built up in the capital and unconfirmed reports abound of attacks on Russians in the country. Only last Sunday, according to one such report, three Soviet civilian advisers were killed, stabbed or shot, in a Kabul bazaar.

However, the sources add that there is nothing short of a civil war among Afghans at the disappearance of Mr Amin, a hardline leader who in three months of rule completely alienated devout Muslims by

his rigid pursuit of Marxist policies. Last Friday, the day after the coup, they thronged the streets in a "holiday spirit" when they learned of Mr Amin's execution.

But though they had grown used to seeing Soviet troops in Kabul in the 20 months of Marxist rule, they were stunned to see the size of the Soviet military presence.

One Western diplomat said: "The streets of the capital 'swarmed' with Soviet soldiers—mainly Uzbeks, Turkmen and Tadzhiks with Russian officers—that day. If Karmal could have overthrown Amin without the Russians he would have been seen as a hero of the people."

Since coming to power, Mr Karmal's speeches published in the Kabul New Times newspaper have emphasized his attitude of respecting traditional Muslim practices. Western sources said many Afghans were now hopeful that Mr Karmal would not prove to be the pious servant of Moscow as he has been portrayed in the West.

Moscow appears to have reduced its military presence on Kabul's streets. The sources say most Soviet troops in the Kabul area are quartered in the Bala Hissar garrison to the south of the city—Reuters.

EEC thinks out response to invasion

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 4

Talks on the European Community's response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan have not gone beyond the stage of exchanges of information between member states.

Whatever decision is finally taken, it is likely to represent a lowest common denominator of national attitudes given the markedly different tone of reaction in Community capitals.

The French have been involved in military interventions in three African countries—the Central African empire, Zaïre and Chad, and Belgium, too, took part in the 1978 Zaire operation aimed at promoting General Mobutu's regime.

Contrary to earlier reports no decision had yet been taken to withhold food aid from Afghanistan, but a "temporary suspension" will be considered. Boycotts against the Soviet Union, the Minister of Youth, Sport and Leisure explained in Paris last night that France did not support the idea of a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

Warsaw Pact unable to speak with one voice

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade, Jan 4

Disagreements arising from the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan have strained the unity of the Warsaw Pact. Today, Romania implicitly condemned it by calling for an end of the "policy of domination" and appealing for an end to violations of national independence.

By contrast, Poland came out late and obviously rather reluctantly in support of the Soviet invasion. The Hungarian coverage of the Afghan adventure has relied mainly on quotes from Soviet press reports.

In between the hardliners' (Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Bulgaria) prompt support and Romania's outright condemnation are the Poles and Czechs who sit their disapproval by offering their support rather late. The Warsaw Pact is clearly suffering from the repercussions of an international act that neither Poland nor Hungary would willingly condone.

In fact, yesterday Mr Edward Gierk, the Polish party leader, expressed the hope that Afghanistan would "return to

the ideals of the April revolution", omitting to give express support to the role the Soviet troops are playing in propping up the new regime there.

Last week, President Ceausescu of Romania, limited his criticism to a vague condemnation saying that nations should not interfere in the affairs of others.

Today, the Romanian party newspaper *Scinteia* said without mentioning Russia, that failure to show respect for the independence of other nations might lead to a further worsening of the international situation with consequences for one could foresee. Domination was a threat to détente, it added.

Romania was the only Warsaw Pact country to condemn sharply and explicitly the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 as well as the Vietnam invasion of Kampuchea. However, today's condemnation seemed more muted because of a deep anxiety felt in Bucharest over what is seen as Moscow's increasingly aggressive mood.

A sharp condemnation of the invasion of Afghanistan came today from Tirana. Albania accused Moscow of "aggressive and fascist behaviour".

OVERSEAS

Street riots by rival Ayatollahs' followers

Qom, Iran, Jan 4.—Street riots broke out in Qom, the Muslim religious centre, today, and Revolutionary Guards used tear gas to prevent rival demonstrators from attacking the homes of rival religious leaders.

Clashes occurred this morning and despite appeals for calm from both Ayatollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Kazem Shariat-Madari, the leader of the Turkish-speaking Azerbaijanis, there was further rioting in the afternoon.

Security forces sealed streets round the home of Ayatollah Khomeini, fired in the air and launched tear gas grenades to push back an advancing crowd of Azerbaijanis armed with staves and iron bars, who have converged on Qom in recent days.

Later, Khomeini supporters tried to stage a retaliatory raid on the home of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari. The two sides exchanged volleys of stones and bricks in the narrow alleys leading to the Ayatollah's house but the police kept them apart.

At least 10 people were treated for injuries received in the clashes. Many more were on the streets with cuts and head injuries.

Qom's main shrine was closed. Ayatollah Khomeini ordered shops to shut and Revolutionary Guards sealed off streets and blocked the main bridge into the centre of the town.

The Azerbaijanis smashed shop windows and burnt rubbish, shouting slogans against Iran's new Islamic constitution, which gives sweeping powers to Ayatollah Khomeini. They claimed that their leader was a prisoner in his own home.

The pro-Khomeini militants distributed leaflets alleging that Ayatollah Shariat-Madari was an agent of the former Shah's secret police Savak and the United States Central Intelligence Agency. As they chanted that "Shariat-Madari is a spy", they like the occupied United States Embassy in Tehran.

In Tabriz, the capital of Azerbaijan, supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini burnt photographs of Ayatollah Khomeini after occupying the Tabriz broadcasting centre. Reuters and Agence France Presse.

Demand for envoy: The State Department said in Washington that Bruce Laingen, the American chargé d'affaires in Tehran, was still at the Iranian Foreign Ministry today despite demands by students to transfer him to the occupied United States Embassy for questioning.

The report also said that students' demands that Air Force Lieutenant-Colonel David Roeder, held at the embassy should be tried for bombing Vietnam during the Vietnam War—Reuters.

Waldheim failure: Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General left Tehran today.

In an interview in Zurich on his way to New York, Dr Waldheim said he believed his mission had been worthwhile.

He said it helped a lot because it had given me a much clearer picture of what is going on in Iran," he told ABC Television. He had discussed several ideas for solving the crisis with Iranian revolutionary leaders, but he gave no details.

Asked by reporters whether he met Ayatollah Khomeini, Dr Waldheim replied: "No. Asked then whether he regretted this he answered "No, I do not", but declined to expand—Reuters and AP.

Reformed Black Panther to work for community

Oakland, California, Jan 4.—

Elton "Sonny" Blyden, the former Black Panther leader, was sentenced yesterday to up to five years' probation and 2,000 hours' community work for his involvement in a 1968 gun-battle with Oakland police.

Judge Winton McKibben of the Superior Court told Mr Blyden that his probation would end when his community service was completed. "I feel you have changed for the better."

The gun battle, in which hundreds of shots were exchanged by Black Panthers and police, cost lives in Oakland in 1968.

Mr Blyden was arrested but later jumped bail, fled to Cuba to seek political asylum, then went on to Algeria and arrived illegally in France in 1972—Reuters.

Uganda mends fences with Sudan

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Jan 4

Relations between Uganda and Sudan, which were under serious strain when former President Idi Amin's military forces fled north before the advancing Tanzanian troops last year, are slowly improving.

About 50,000 Ugandans are still in southern Sudan including many notorious members of the Amin forces who are unlikely to seek to return to Uganda. But thousands more have gone back to Uganda over the past few months, most of them civilians who fled across the border during the last stages of the war in Uganda.

Mr Otema Alimadi, the Ugandan Foreign Minister, has been visiting Sudan to discuss the improvement of relations. He visited Juba, the centre of southern Sudan where he had discussions with General Joseph Lagu, the former commander of the Anyanya forces in the region who is now President of the High Executive Council of southern Sudan.



Indian poll protest: Angry Harijans, formerly known as Untouchables, display their ballot papers in Bagpat, Uttar Pradesh, claiming they had been prevented physically from voting by

higher caste Hindus in Thursday's general election. Bagpat is in the constituency of Mr Charan Singh, the caretaker Prime Minister, and India's Election Commission has ordered an inquiry into the alleged poll rigging.

Early reports indicated a clear swing in favour of Mrs Indira Gandhi's faction of the Congress Party. More constituencies will cast their ballots on Sunday in the two-part elections to the Lok Sabha, or Lower House.

Time factor seen as main obstacle

Guerrilla fears delay assembly in Rhodesia

From Nicholas Ashford
Hoya, Rhodesia, Jan 4

Major Christopher Le Hardy of the Royal Hussars was just sitting down for a much-needed cup of tea when Corporal Walker came over to him and quietly announced: "Perrence Shirri is coming in."

"That's great news," exclaimed the Major, red-faced from two weeks in the heat of the Zambesi valley, only 20 miles from the Mozambique border. "Shirri is one of the most important Patriotic Front commanders in the Hurricane operational area and he has got about 700 men under his command."

News of Shirri's impending arrival came only hours before the deadline for implementing the ceasefire accord reached at the Lancaster House conference was due to expire. If he and his men arrived at one of the two rendezvous points in the ceasefire area that Major Le Hardy is responsible for monitoring, it would mean that most of the guerrillas in that area had heeded the ceasefire call.

By mid-day today, 674 guerrillas, all but one of whom were members of Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (Zanla) had gathered at the assembly area codenamed "Alpha".

Major Le Hardy and his liaison officer, known simply as John, had been in touch with Shirri since the beginning of the week but it had taken time to convince him that the ceasefire was genuine and for him to persuade his followers to stop fighting and report to the rendezvous points.

Just to illustrate the sort of problem the Patriotic Front has to deal with, Major Le Hardy said, "Shirri told me it would take 14 days to march under one side of the area under his command to the other. Yet the guerrillas were given only seven days to report here or at our two rendezvous points. In fact when I first met Shirri he only had a vague idea of what was involved in the ceasefire arrangement, which goes to show how difficult it is to get word to men scattered around the bush."

Major Le Hardy, and other officers in the ceasefire force, felt that more time should have been allowed for guerrillas to congregate. However, Lord Soames, the Governor, has ruled that tonight's midnight deadline had to be kept.

The main problem has been overcoming guerrilla suspicions that the ceasefire was a trap to lure them to areas where they would be easy targets for the Rhodesian security forces.

"It takes time to gain their

confidence," Major Le Hardy said. "Many things can arouse their suspicions."

His feelings about the ceasefire period were shared by his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Les Hubble, of the Australian Army, who is in charge of five assembly areas.

He said: "We seem to have run out of time. We know we will not have all of them in assembly areas or rendezvous points by tonight. It has been partly a communications problem. It is no good a British or Australian soldier going out and trying to persuade these men to come along. This can only be done by their leaders."

Colonel Hubble arrived by helicopter at Alpha assembly area with his Zanla counterpart, known simply as Comrade Mao. They appeared an odd duo. Colonel Hubble with his strong Australian accent and down-to-earth views and the Marxist Comrade Mao dressed in camouflage Chinese fatigues and carrying an AK47 automatic.

But Colonel Hubble said they had established a good working relationship and even exchanged light-hearted political banter at the pub in Bindura where they stay.

A degree of rapport also seems to have been developed between Major Le Hardy and his 16 British soldiers, and the guerrilla leaders at Alpha, although the guerrillas tend to keep their distance.

The Zanla commanders have their own area on one side of the monitoring force and the lone Zipra man has a tent on the other side.

Neither the British nor the guerrillas have sufficient trust in each other to leave behind their arms when they visit one another. The Zanla separations that regularly troop over to talk with Major Le Hardy are always armed with their AK47s or other Soviet-made automatics and the British have their FN and Stirlings close to hand.

What happens after tonight's deadline expires? According to Colonel Hubble, the Commonwealth monitoring force in his area will continue to welcome late arrivals for a while. "You can't just cut them off at midnight," he said. "If a group of guerrillas is moving in a peaceful and orderly fashion towards a rendezvous point or assembly area then they will be given a safe passage."

However, a black member of Rhodesian forces nearby said: "Tomorrow we have been told to carry out a sweep of any remaining guerrillas in the surrounding areas." There seemed little intention on his part to grant the guerrillas a safe passage.

Defiant Israel minister holds on to his land

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Jan 4

A serious political scandal is growing in Israel over the continued refusal of Mr Ariel Sharon, the Agriculture Minister, to comply with Government guidelines on private interests and relinquish control of his large farm in the Negev Desert.

The matter is likely to come to a head later this month when the Cabinet is due to discuss the recent findings of a legal committee headed by a former Tel Aviv judge which found Mr Sharon's ownership of the farm "totally irreconcilable" with his holding of the agriculture portfolio.

As public criticism of Mr Sharon's behaviour has mounted this week, he has also been accused of misusing state funds to erect a security fence around the 875-acre property and of exceeding its allotted water ration by 50 per cent for two successive years.

A former Israeli military hero, Mr Sharon is one of the most controversial figures in the present Cabinet and a close associate of Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, who often refers to him as "mon general".

In addition to his agricultural responsibilities he is also in charge of the Government's expansionist settlement policy in the occupied territories.

Although Mr Sharon's stand over the farm (which is managed by his wife) is known to be disapproved of by virtually every one of his Cabinet colleagues there is no way that he can be dismissed from his

post under the present law without bringing about the resignation of the whole Government.

The new guidelines on the business interests of ministers were introduced in October 1977 in recognition of the fact that for the first time in Israel's history, a number of active and wealthy entrepreneurs had been brought into the Cabinet.

All but Mr Sharon agreed to abide by the regulations. These were not regarded as over strict in that they allowed commercial interests to be transferred to next of kin who, in many cases, have been actively engaged in administering the businesses. It was recognized that a Minister and his or her spouse were one and the same legal personality as far as their material interests were concerned.

Among those who handed over substantial commercial holdings were Mr Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister, who was involved in aviation manufacturing, and Mr Yigael Hurvitz, the present Finance Minister, who had a stake in the dairy industry.

Throughout the period that the scandal has been simmering, Mr Sharon has refused point-blank to transfer or sell the farm, claiming that the investors who backed him with large sums would not permit it.

Since he has no adult children, he was not able to take advantage of the 1977 dispensation involving next of kin. His behaviour has led to widespread calls in the Knesset and the Israeli press for him to either hand over the farming business immediately or resign.

Khmer guerrillas 'retake former strongholds'

From Neil Kelly,
Bangkok, Jan 4

Khmer Rouge guerrillas are harassing Vietnamese forces in areas of western Kampuchea from which the guerrillas were driven two months ago, intelligence analysts said today.

Prolonged fighting involving Vietnamese artillery has been going on in hilly terrain around Phnom Malai, south of Aranyaprathet, for the past three days. Khmer Rouge soldiers appeared to have succeeded, at least temporarily, in reoccupying some of their old strongholds in the area.

Sporadic fighting was also reported further south close to a border area where six shells landed on Thai territory earlier this week. They caused no casualties. Small-scale clashes are also occurring frequently further inside Kampuchea, according to the analysts.

The Thai authorities have now positively identified 400 Vietnamese defectors including about 50 soldiers who have escaped into Thailand in the past three months. They are being held in a military prison at Aranyaprathet.

Those who have attempted to escape wear heavy leg manacles at all times. Some of the prisoners served with the former South Vietnamese army fighting the communists.

Luu Sinh Cusung, aged 27, said the communists sent him to a re-education camp when they found he had been with the anti-communist army. After four years there he escaped and wearing communist uniform made his way to Thailand. "I made it here and now Thailand has put me back in jail," he said.

Le Phi Long, aged 23, who was drafted to fight in Kampuchea last March said that after seeing 200 of the 500 men in his unit killed or wounded, he decided to escape into Thailand. The soldiers said that in Kampuchea they received about £1 a month after deductions for food and other supplies.

China agrees to new airport for Hongkong

China has approved the construction of a commercial airport on the Chinese side of the Hongkong border which would operate as a second airport for Hongkong. Endorsement by the British Government is confidently expected.

The airport, which will cost an estimated 2,000m Hongkong dollars (just over £200m), will be partly financed and built by a syndicate of Hongkong, American and overseas Chinese entrepreneurs, not yet named. It is understood that the Chinese and Hongkong Governments will share 50:50 the total cost of the project which will take five years to complete. The chosen site is on the shore of Deep Bay, west of the Lowu railway border connexion between Hongkong and Canton. There will be hydrofoil, helicopter and expressway connections for Hongkong and international passengers to and from the terminal building at the airport.

Farewell present from Stalin

Did Stalin at the end of the Second World War try to infiltrate the upper reaches of British diplomacy by planting an agent there? When the wartime British Ambassador in Moscow was transferred in 1946 to Washington, Stalin asked him what he would like as a leaving present. The Ambassador's eccentric request: to be given a Soviet citizen to take away with him, and its extraordinary sequel, provides a story that is stranger than any fiction. In tomorrow's *Sunday Times* it is told, for the first time, by Frank Giles, the paper's Deputy Editor.

Thief loses hand

Jiddah, Jan 4.—A thief here had his right hand cut off today in accordance with Islamic law after being found guilty of robbery, including stealing from a grocery store safe.

Pakistan doubts about US arms

From Richard Wigg
Islamabad, Jan 4

When Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, came here in about 10 days after visiting Turkey, Oman, Saudi Arabia and perhaps India, he will have to reassure not only the regime of President Mohammed Zia but also the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

A shaky Pakistani public will also want to know whether the West's response, exemplified by his visit, can help them or not.

Since the military regime has banished the political parties to temporary oblivion, it is difficult to assess the feelings of a people worrying whether they are next on the Russians' list and whether arms supplied by the United States and financed by the Saudis can give an effective answer.

Some Western diplomats are finding Pakistanis who have been friendly until now expressing doubts, not merely about how quickly the Carter Administration can come through with tanks and aircraft, but whether Pakistan is itself in a position to stand up to modern Soviet weapons.

"One problem facing the West is that any large-scale delivery of arms reinforces a military regime unpopular with wide sections of Pakistani society. It is not only the supporters of the late Mr Zulfikar Bhutto, the executed former Prime Minister, but also those of almost all the banned political parties who feel they could



General Zia: his regime is widely unpopular

arouse a more effective national response to the Soviet threat than a regime which has imposed semi-permanent martial law on its own citizenry.

Would the Pakistani Army with freshly supplied American arms be able to stop the Russians if they really have embarked on a "new wave" of less cautious foreign policy, some people are frankly asking here. How would the Army be able to reply if the Soviet Union, antagonized by such rearmament and with Afghanistan subdued in say a year, began to infiltrate Baluchistan, with its already disaffected tribal population, leadership, and openly pro-Moscow students?

The Soviet Union's real

intentions towards Pakistan, some people feel, have been still to be tested, perhaps in the next 10 days.

There are those who bitterly regret the Americans' confrontation with Iran. They reckoned, and still have, that the hope, that Iran and Afghanistan together would prove too tough a nut for the Russians to crack and Pakistan could then achieve a non-aligned security. The Zia regime would still prefer the West to be seen coming to the aid of Pakistan after the Islamic world and not ahead of it.

The talk among Pakistanis is of cold self-interest. Official rejection of the idea of the Americans' feeding light arms to the Afghan tribesmen finds, I think, widespread support.

To be found acting as a conduit for western arms would be extremely dangerous for Pakistan. There has undoubtedly been until now connivance by the authorities here.

Lord Carrington is expected in Delhi on January 16 or 17. By that time, the new Indian government is likely to be installed (Kuldip Mayer writes).

Delhi appears to be more angered by the prospect of American arms supplies to Islamabad than by the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan. However, the general belief is that the new Government will be more forthcoming towards the west. There is a possibility of an understanding developing if India and Pakistan as well as others in the region hold talks together.

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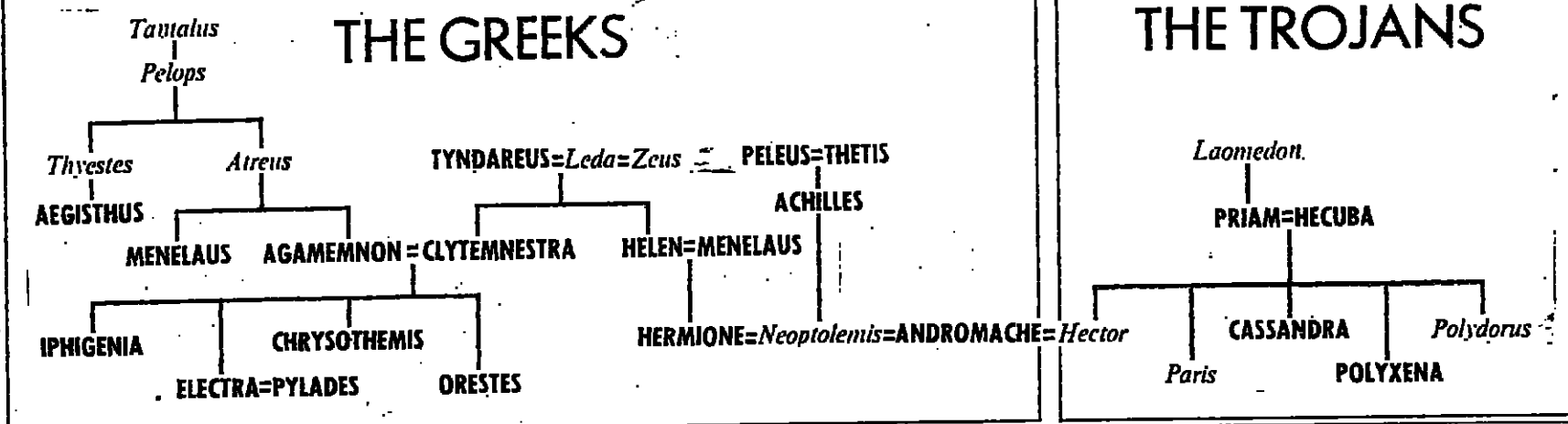
Saturday Review

The Greeks

A fortnight today the Royal Shakespeare Company begin a three-month season devoted to the Greeks. The project is on the scale of the Shakespeare cycle, *The Wars of the Roses*, 16 years ago. This time John Barton has been joined by Kenneth Cavander and together they have adapted ten Greek plays into a three-part cycle, which tells the story of the house of Agamemnon and the Trojan War. Kenneth Cavander here describes how the cycle has come into being and how the Greeks have haunted him all his life.



The last scene (above) of a performance of *Agamemnon* at Balliol College, Oxford. And "family" trees, right.



For years I have been on the run from the Greeks. Many times I thought I had escaped, only to find myself back to back with them again, taunting, inviting, challenging. By the Greeks, I mean the Greek dramatists of the fifth century BC—Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides—their characters, their stories, the plays themselves. As a writer, and later a director, in theatre, television and film, I had another life, quite separate from the classics—or so I tried to pretend. But the Greeks kept following me. Even when I left England for the United States I found myself being lured into new productions of the plays, new translations, new attempts to solve the problems they pose for a modern audience. But by the late seventies I thought I'd left them behind. After all, it was at least seven years since I'd been rash enough to take on one of the Greek dramas. Surely they had forgotten about me. And then the letter arrived.

I found me in New York, and it was from John Barton, one of the directors of the Royal Shakespeare Company. "It now looks as if I shall almost certainly do what has long been my great ambition," John wrote, "namely, a cycle of all the Trojan War and House of Atreus plays... 9 or 12 plays in all, so the project will take up either three or four evenings." He wanted me to translate and co-adapt the texts for a production in 1980 by the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Aldwych Theatre in London. My first impulse was to run.

I had not always felt this way. At Oxford, as an undergraduate and stage-struck writer, I had been grateful to the Greeks. I had studied their history, their philosophy, and in return they had given me a helping hand into the theatre. By translating Euripides' *Hippolytus* for the hundredth major production of the OUDS I had been introduced to professional actors and directors for the first time. Later, I had been asked by the BBC to translate the first version of Greek drama to be broadcast on television. And later still I had worked on Euripides' *Bacchae* for productions in London and the United States. All these translations had been published or performed somewhere, and each time the work had fired my imagination or brought me to a new turn in my career.

In those days I even set myself up as the champion of Greek drama, making a great fuss about how misunderstood these plays had been by everyone from Aristotle to Gilbert Murray and even twentieth-century academics and critics. As time went on, however, I dropped the role of self-appointed guardian of the Greeks and saw them more as a distraction from my real work, even a threat. If I associated with them too much, I thought, I would be typecast as a classicist and a translator. I tried to shake them off.

And now here was this letter from John Barton, proposing not just one translation of a single play but an adaptation of upwards of a dozen, telling a story that spanned centuries—ages of legendary history, and including works that had seldom if ever been given a contemporary professional production. There was really no way out, I said yes.

I turned to the plays and started to absorb the enormity of the task. First, the story. The story defies synopsis, yet it had to be grasped whole and held in our grip if we were to succeed. Boiled down to its essentials, this is the tale we were telling.

The time—a legendary past, pre-history. The states of Greece have mobilized an army to attack the city of Troy, in the east. Troy is because the king's son, Paris, has abducted a Queen of Greece, Helen. But the Greeks are stuck, their fleet becalmed for lack of wind. So, persuaded by a seer and magician, they offer a human sacrifice—Iphigenia, the daughter of Agamemnon, Commander in Chief of the Greek armies. It works. After Iphigenia is killed, the winds blow, the years of fighting, during which their greatest hero Achilles is killed, they capture Troy.

Their troubles, however, are only just beginning. Storms scatter their fleet; the captured Trojan women are plotted and rebellious; one plots the death of the Greeks; another, a loyal to the Greeks, foretells the murder of their king, Agamemnon, and she is proved right. When he reaches Greece Agamemnon is killed by his own wife, Clytemnestra, in revenge for the sacrifice of their daughter 10 years ago.

Meanwhile, Agamemnon's brother Menelaus, whose wife, Helen, is blown off course and shipwrecked on the shores of Egypt. There he discovers that the Helen he thought he had rescued from Troy is really a ghost, a double. The true Helen has been in Egypt all this time. One of the gods spirited her away and left her there. She never went to Troy at all.

Back in Greece... I was realising. By now I was realising. We were only half-way through the story. Still to come were several more murders, a wild act of political terrorism involving Menelaus's daughter, arson, several more shifts of action between a number of Greek states, and another long voyage across the seas—this one performed by Orestes, Agamemnon's son, who has been told that if he can find and bring back a certain statue of the goddess Artemis all his crimes, which include matricide, will be forgiven. Half way back to Troy, in a remote and bleak outpost of eastern Europe, Orestes finds the statue. It is guarded by a priestess who exacts a human sacrifice from any travellers who come near. Orestes is captured and prepared for the slaughter. At the last minute it turns out that the priestess is... none other than his long-lost sister Iphigenia who was miraculously saved all those years ago by the very goddess whose statue she now guards, Artemis. Brother and sister are reconciled and the story ends... but it wouldn't be fair to give away the ending.

All this violent action, I now saw, is blown off course and shipwrecked on the shores of Egypt. There he discovers that the Helen he thought he had rescued from Troy is really a ghost, a double. The true Helen has been in Egypt all this time. One of the gods spirited her away and left her there. She never went to Troy at all.

but to casting, the length of a program on any given evening, and budget. The plays would no longer be plays in their own right; they would become "acts" in a longer play that would be performed on any given night. The interconnectedness of everything in the dramas had some surprising implications. Take Achilles, for example. Achilles is the son of Peleus, who married Thetis, a goddess of the sea. Over the coming months I was to find myself thinking a lot about Peleus and Thetis and their marriage, although they make only a brief appearance in the cycle of plays. Their marriage, of course, took place a generation before the events in our saga but over and over again it is referred to as one of the most important events in the story.

There is a reason for this. The marriage of Peleus and Thetis was the last time, according to legend, that gods and mortals met as equals. At their wedding, attended by most of the Olympian gods, there was harmony on earth. Discord was absent. And that was the trouble. The Goddess of Discord was angry that she had not been invited, and tossed in her own wedding gift—a golden apple inscribed "FOR THE fairest". Naturally the three most powerful goddesses claimed it and naturally they could not agree which of them deserved it. So they asked a mortal to arbitrate. That mortal happened to be Paris, the very Trojan who figures in the start of the war. His prize for choosing Aphro-

dite, goddess of love, was Helen, the beautiful Queen of Sparta. So the marriage of Peleus and Thetis, which produced the great hero Achilles, also produced the great war that killed Achilles at the hands of... why Paris, of course. The only problem was, none of this was dramatized. It was there in the background, in lines and images, in fragments of chorus, and in the minds of the original audience for the Greek dramas, for whom these stories were part of their everyday life.

That is why the early weeks of my correspondence with John Barton contained many letters with sentences like "...the natural shape for the evening is three plays and two intervals and four plays in an evening is too much. The best place for Helen is before the second evening..." If Andromache came before *Electra* then the actress playing Clytemnestra could not double as Helen. If we used *Eumenides* where could it go, after *Electra*? Or after *Orestes*...? Woe became story telling from a Middle East bazaar, weaving together a vast complicated series of themes and characters. At other times we felt more like the creators of a new timetable for a cosmic railway system, making sure that characters and the actors playing them did not collide at some embarrassing junction in space/time. Once before we had tried something like this. It was in 1966, in Stratford-upon-Avon, when John Barton and I,

consigned to obscurity. One character died and was resurrected several times. Her name is Theonoe, and I mention her here because this may be the last time for many years that she is heard of. She appears in the *Helen*, the play set in Egypt, and she is a priestess, the sister of the King of Egypt. Theonoe has second sight and her brother is a crude, lecherous boor who has been justifying after Helen ever since she arrived in Egypt. Theonoe disapproved of her brother's behaviour, but when Menelaus arrives to take Helen away she is not sure whether she should allow this to happen. The fate of the couple is in her hands, and once she has decided it, she leaves the action for good. A short part, easy to cut. The play would not miss her. Nor would audiences. Only I would.

For a while it looked as though Theonoe would survive to appear on the stage of the Aldwych. Her part could be used as a bait to lure an actress into the company. But the problem was solved in another way, and Theonoe was written out of the show. I was sorry. She was a little starchy, and certainly not glamorous, but I liked her.

As time became shorter, and spring became summer, the script began to take shape. Surprised commuters on trains in the New England countryside watched as I balanced a Greek text and large weighty manuscripts on my lap juggling lines of dialogue. Other parts of the revision were done on long distance bus trips to northern states; still others on flights to remote off-shore islands. In the humid New York summer I would speak to John Barton by telephone and try to save Theonoe. Parts of the script were written on a ferry boat; other parts fell off it. And what about the gods?

For every crime the mortals committed, the gods were guilty of something at least as vile. In just, cruelty, greed, and meanness, there was little to choose between gods and men. "Gods" seemed too dignified a word for these two dimensional shadows of all that was mean and unworthy in mankind. The question of the gods' consent to a person watching a quietly destructive child dismantle an antique clock.

The gods, childish and irrational... The women, stronger than the men and the only voice of conscience in a brutally brutal universe... The Greek plays as an artistic mimesis... As the summer progressed and the first day of rehearsal came closer, these questions began to seem to me to be connected. But how? There was no time to sit down and work out a coherent answer, because every day there was a new piece of the puzzle to be fitted in, like the names for the characters in the chorus.

This may seem a small matter, but it was important for the actresses playing the roles of the chorus. They had to sustain their parts over days and months of rehearsal, keep them fresh and alive through more months of performance. In the original the chorus is a singing, dancing unit. But we had made a decision early on not to reproduce this effect. Instead, we decided to individualize the chorus members, rather as I had done in the first television version of a Greek play I worked on, *Women of Troy*. There I had broken up lines that would have been chanted or sung in unison, and made them brief speeches that might have been spoken by individuals with a history, a personal life, and specific attitudes. This is what we have done from time to time in the RSC version, and to keep those characters alive, the performers needed names. I spent hours searching for appropriate names for these voices out of silence. Ironically, most of them could not be Greek, for the Greek plays are full of slaves. The slaves are women, they come from the east, prisoners of war. The nameless voices of conscience belong to our captured enemies.

It would be nice to report that I solved the nagging problem of why the Greeks kept coming after me. But I didn't. It has something to do with those women; something to do with the gods; something to do with a fact which may be no fact at all but merely a piece of folk lore. I had heard somewhere that if you extended the lines formed by the seemingly parallel pillars of the Parthenon they would all meet at a single point in space. Those straight columns, in other words, are really curved. If it's not true it ought to be.

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Antonia Pemberton and Emily Richard in *Enemy at the Door* (ITV, 8.45)

● We must be charitable and assume that, even though tonight's production of Prokofiev's *The Love of Three Oranges* (BBC 2, 7.30) is the BBC's first television opera since the visually hideous *Macbeth* of 1977, the long interval was in no way the result of the howls of dismay which greeted that artistic nightmare. Tonight's is a studio performance, as was the Verdi, but I believe that its set design, which includes spectacular waterfalls and a flying battalion, is quite remarkable. And it must count for something that Oleg Prokofiev, son of Sergei, is in his introduction to tonight's production that he feels it is the best representation of his father's fantasy opera that he has ever seen. Should the sight of it displease you, however, you can always listen to it on Radio 3 at 7.15, and in stereo too.

● Royalists are well catered for today. *Soul of a Nation* (BBC 2, 9.25) is a two-part documentary about King Bhumibol Aduladej and Queen Sirikit of Thailand, and international Assignment (Radio 4, 11.35 am) tells us the number of other kings and queens the world over who still have a throne on which to sit. I see that Leo Aylen, who wrote the film about the Thai monarchy, was unable to resist the temptation to get the king to talk about one of his famous ancestors, King Mongkut, indeed he is still doing so in London. The film is banned in Thailand; whether on artistic or monarchic grounds, we may learn tonight.

● London Weekend Television's first collection of plays about the German occupation of the Channel Islands in the Second World War—they went under the umbrella title *Enemy at the Door*—were so well received that a second lot was embarked upon, and tonight (ITV, 8.45) sees the screening of the first episode. Few will be sorry to see that Alfred Burke's *Major Richter*, a resonating hit in the first series, is jackbooting it again through the streets of Guernsey in the second.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO; * BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am Better Badminton: Repeat of the BBC 2 series which should improve your game.
9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Noel Edmonds's ever-changing show, with guests. They include Gareth Edwards (on sport), Andrew Sachs (on the comic water world) and Professor Eric Laithwaite (on magnetism).
12.15 pm Grandstand: The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus, with Bob Wilson; 12.45 Rugby League Challenge Cup Draw: Racing from Haydock Park at 12.50, 1.30, 1.50 and 2.30; International Darts (the Watsons); 2.45 Open Championship (the Watsons); 3.10, 3.40, and 2.40; 2.10 Cricket: Australia v England, the second Test; International Tennis (the Branniff Airways World

Doubles Championship) at 3.00 and 4.05; 3.30 Rugby League—Widnes v Bradford Northern in the final of the John Player Trophy.
5.15 Holiday on Ice: Highlights of the spectacular show from Lausanne.
6.05 News: with Peter Woods.
6.15 Sport.
6.20 Cr. Who: Part 3 of *The Horus of Nimrod*. Jolly space adventure.
6.45 Jim'll Fix It: Jimmy Savile gives youngsters a chance to eat spaghetti correctly, go tracking with doormat, learn how model trains are made, take part in a TV trial.
7.20 All Creatures Great and Small: The James Herriot vet stories. Tonight: James and Helen adopt a cat, but it is not as easy as that.
8.10 The Dick Emery Show: New series.
8.15 The Birth of a new comedy

character, an Irish detective called Flynn O'Thick. Mr Emery also gets caught up in a witch hunt.
8.45 Dallas: a serial about an oil-rich Texan family. Tonight: Sue Ellen finds herself attracted to a rodeo cowboy.
9.25 News: with Peter Woods.
9.45 Match of the Day: Highlights from three of today's FA Cup games. Also, the result of the Goal of the Month competition.
10.55 Parkinson: Alistair Cooke gets—and deserves—a whole edition to himself.
11.00 Weather.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 6.15 pm News; 6.45 pm Sport; 7.15 pm News; 7.45 pm News; 8.15 pm News; 8.45 pm News; 9.15 pm News; 9.45 pm News; 10.15 pm News; 10.45 pm News; 11.15 pm News; 11.45 pm News; 12.15 pm News; 12.45 pm News; 1.15 pm News; 1.45 pm News; 2.15 pm News; 2.45 pm News; 3.15 pm News; 3.45 pm News; 4.15 pm News; 4.45 pm News; 5.15 pm News; 5.45 pm News; 6.15 pm News; 6.45 pm News; 7.15 pm News; 7.45 pm News; 8.15 pm News; 8.45 pm News; 9.15 pm News; 9.45 pm News; 10.15 pm News; 10.45 pm News; 11.15 pm News; 11.45 pm News; 12.15 pm News; 12.45 pm News; 1.15 pm News; 1.45 pm News; 2.15 pm News; 2.45 pm News; 3.15 pm News; 3.45 pm News; 4.15 pm News; 4.45 pm News; 5.15 pm News; 5.45 pm News; 6.15 pm News; 6.45 pm News; 7.15 pm News; 7.45 pm News; 8.15 pm News; 8.45 pm News; 9.15 pm News; 9.45 pm News; 10.15 pm News; 10.45 pm News; 11.15 pm News; 11.45 pm News; 12.15 pm News; 12.45 pm News; 1.15 pm News; 1.45 pm News; 2.15 pm News; 2.45 pm News; 3.15 pm News; 3.45 pm News; 4.15 pm News; 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In good years, January is the month when retailers put on the motley and create their grand illusion of slashing prices and bleeding themselves. They ask us to believe, for instance, that it cuts them to the quick to knock 50 per cent off a special delivery of tee shirts originally commissioned for the Russell Harty show and printed by mistake with "I love Michael Parkinson".

But 1979 was not a good

year. Retailers had a hard time and some of the big reductions, particularly in furniture, are a genuine attempt to recoup something, anything, before making way for the new. You are therefore likely to be on the winning side as long as you are buying, say, a bed, whose shape is unlikely to change much from one decade to the next.

But you should not make the mistake of thinking that furniture is affected so slowly by fashion that it is a safe buy, particularly if your taste inclines to the modern rather than the antique. Pine, for instance, has had a good, long innings and will not top the popularity polls for ever. Buy a pine chest if you adore pine, but not if you don't

want your home to date. Change is definitely in the air, so I asked five experts for their forecast for this first year of the 80's.

Peter Hayes, managing director of Collins and Hayes, the Hastings company which has been producing fine upholstered furniture for more than 100 years, thinks that inflation will have a major effect on furniture buying. People will be cautious about buying way-out type of designs, he says, and will return to what they know will last—classic simplicity. When money is short, they insist on quality.

"There is an increasing demand for really nice furniture," says Mr Hayes. "The trouble is that people do not buy furniture regularly and they remember what they paid 10 or 20 years ago."

"They will pay £40 for a pair of shoes which used to cost £8, because they have been buying shoes regularly and didn't notice the gradual increase. They even accept

the increase in car prices—from £700 to £2,500 for a Mini. "By comparison, furniture has not gone up nearly so much. Ten years ago we were making pieces at £300 to £600 and today our prices range from £700 to £2,000, but most is under £1,000, well below the inflation rate."

Mr Hayes anticipates a softer look in upholstered furniture and also sees a growth in loose covers for those who prefer "a more casual look". But one of the most interesting developments in his company is a return to cabinet making, for which Collins and Hayes were known before the First World War.

This month, at the International Furniture Fair in Cologne, they will be showing cabinet furniture designed by Martin Grieson, beautifully made with hand dovetails in deep brown American walnut with yew facings which will mellow into gold, and costing around £6,000.

"In this country we have reproduction furniture and antique furniture, but very little really nice modern craft-based cabinet furniture," says Mr Hayes.

"We want to produce a range that will appeal to lovers of fine furniture who do not necessarily want to

live with antiques. For the price they would have to pay for only an average antique, we will offer a really fine modern classic."

From the retail point of view, Mr J. E. Hembrey, merchandise director of Maples, has also noticed that an insistence on quality is no longer confined to the upper income groups. As inflation bites deeper, younger buyers are more inclined to spend on furniture that will last.

He expects to see a further large increase in the sales of wall units, which have dealt the death blow to the sideboard, and thinks lacquered furniture, mainly in black or red, will be a strong trend. An interesting development in upholstered furniture is the preference for groups of complementary seating, rather than suites.

Instead of the old sofa and two chairs three-piece, the trend is towards two and three seater sofas, combined with single chairs. You can vary your permutations on this theme according to the amount of space you have, and the single chairs come with low backs or with wings. Flying in the face of liberation, they are known as Ladies and Gents chairs and if you don't feel you fall into either category, you can always have a pouffe instead.

Those who believe that fine furniture is worth a little extra elbow grease may like to know of an excellent polish made from real beeswax to a traditional 400-year-old recipe. You need to rub pretty hard to bring up a high, hard shine, but the polish does nourish the wood and also smells deliciously like a painter's studio, so if you have romantic illusions about love in a garret you can create your own atmosphere at a stroke. It costs 95p for a 5oz jar (standard tins of polish usually contain just over 3oz) and is available, post-free, from beekeeper, Adrian Perkins, 27 de Preville Avenue, Cambridge.

Traps in the Christmas Quiz

I had a white Christmas, even if nobody else did. Only mine consisted not of snowflakes, but of postcards. I hoped you would enjoy my Christmas present quiz, but I didn't expect quite so many entries—many thanks to the hundreds of you who took part.

Nobody got all 16 answers right and most of you came unstuck over the Prince of Wales. Your favourite choice for him was a chestnut hunter and 24 hours' sleep, several of you have a romantic view of him as a gifted pianist and one entrant even thought he might like a couple of grandchildren, which does seem to be jumping the gun slightly.

The right answer, as I explained, was an "educated guess" by Tim Heald, who has written a biography of Prince Charles. Because of the Prince's love of flying and because his mother's Andovers are "terribly out of date", he suggested the executive jet.

The first six readers who had the greatest number of right answers were Mrs D. White of Hunstanton, Norfolk, Mr H. C. Begg of Edinburgh, Melanie Symonds of London, Mr Mark Winston of Twickenham, Mrs Kenneth Croston of Cambridge and Mr Richard F. Meade of Ashford, Kent. Congratulations. Two bottles of Veuve Clicquot champagne will be sent to you immediately.

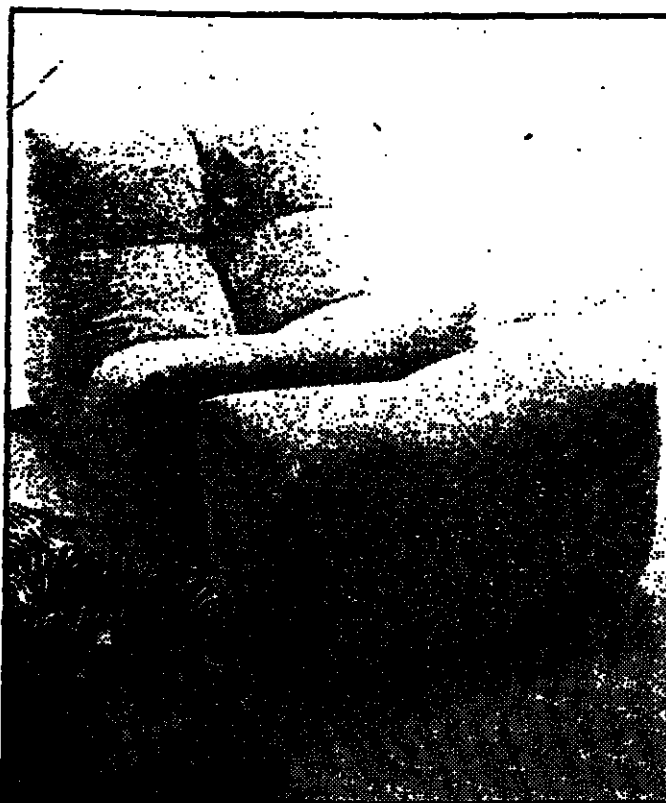
The correct answers were: A-5, B-13, C-1, D-12, E-9, F-7, G-2, H-15, I-8, J-6, K-4, L-14, M-11, N-3, O-10.

For those of you who missed the quiz and haven't the least idea what I am talking about, sixteen famous people were asked what they would like for Christmas, given complete carte blanche, and these were their answers:

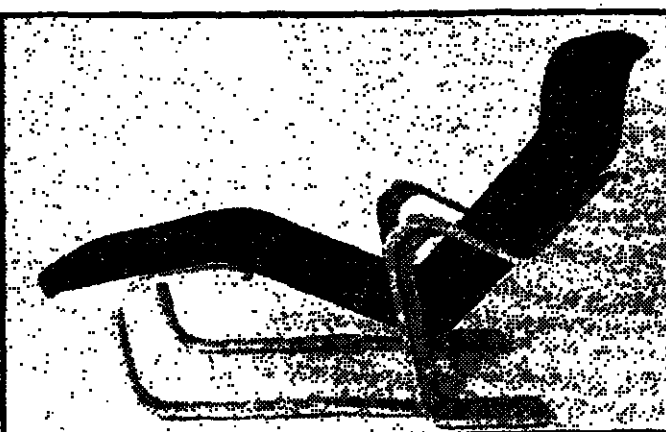
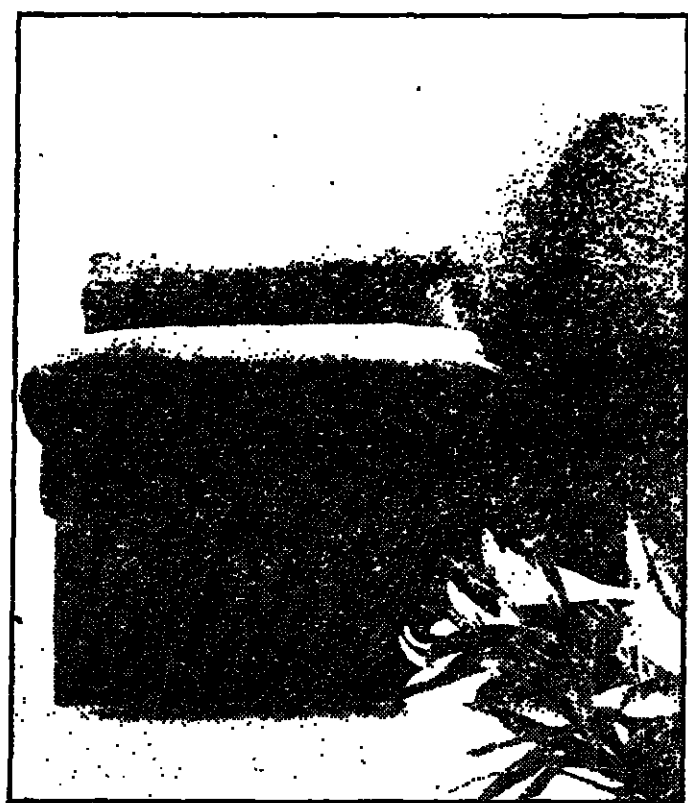
Alan Coren wanted the editorship of The Times; Major General Sir Guy Salisbury Jones, a bottle of champagne and a good cigar; the Prince of Wales was guessed to want the executive jet; John Asprey, a chestnut hunter and 24 hours' sleep; Lord Richard Newport Aspley House and Hyde Park so that he could have his own farm in the middle of London.

Donald Sinden wanted what he was going to get—two grandchildren; John Inman, a theatre of his own; Penelope Keith a garden pond with running water, irises and some nice fish; Andrew Grim, a silk farm in Italy, an orchid farm in Hawaii and a pearl farm in Australia; Jacqueline du Pré, an evening of Victor Borge records; Sue Lawley, the gift of being able to play the piano.

Beryl Bainbridge chose meals on wheels two nights running, while watching the Sinking of the Titanic one night, and the Towering Inferno the next. Arianna Stassinopoulos, complete and utter order; Elizabeth Frink, an all-weather tennis court and Sir Geoffrey Howe, a month in the Greek Islands.



Left: The softer look in unit furniture. Single units cost from £196 to £286, according to fabric, and there are matching corner units, two and three seater sofas and stools. Called Eclair, by Collins and Hayes, to order from Major Collins and Hayes stockists which include Heals and Harrods in London, Rackhams, Birmingham, Kendal Milne, Manchester. Right: Classic comfort in leather. From the Corniche range by Collins and Hayes, it costs £680 and is available in other fabrics from £257. To order from the same stockists as Eclair.



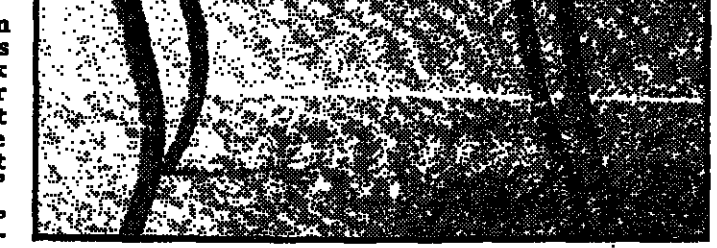
Hand-crafted version of the famous mass-produced Isokon long chair of the 30s, £389 from John Alan Designs, 75 Parkway, Camden Town, London NW1, and 4 Harcourt Road, Coldharbour Road, Redland, Bristol.

The Isokon long chair may sound as dead as the Dodo, but is not, thanks to a lone Bristol craftsman. Originally designed in the 30s, by Marcel Breuer of the Bauhaus school, it was one of the first pieces of furniture to be made from thin laminations of wood. Its other claim to fame was that it supported every part of the body and was described as the most comfortable chair in the world.

It eventually became so expensive to mass-produce that it almost became extinct, but John Webber, of John Alan Designs, was determined to find alternative production methods. He tried several large companies without success, but eventually met Eric Gammon, a cabinet maker in Redland, Bristol, who developed his own way of producing the chair.

His one-man production line now turns out three hand-built versions of the chair each week. It is available in beech or rosewood, in beech, £389, or rosewood finish, £419, with a choice of two fabrics, charcoal grey or mid-brown wool, from John Alan Designs, 75 Parkway, London NW1.

Examples of the original chair, which is acknowledged to be a classic, can be seen in the Victoria and Albert Museum, the City Museum, Bristol and is also in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



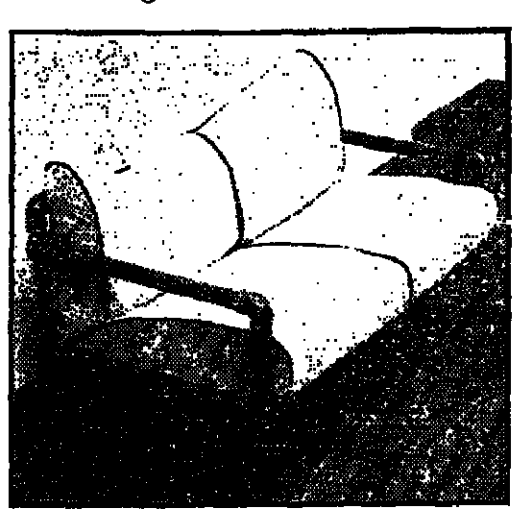
Right: Fine Swedish design by Bruno Mathsson. His Kerstin chair, from the Dux Model range, has a wicker back and leather seat at £234. It can also be made with a wool-covered seat at £150, or in customers' own fabrics. From Liberty's, Regent Street, London, W1.

New Dimension, the company which has developed its strength in medium-priced modern furniture, feels that there will be two major influences on design in the 1980s—comfort and oil prices. People will have more time to spend in and on their homes and the cost of oil, and therefore transport, will mean new methods will be needed to reduce the size and weight of furniture for easy transport.

With comfort will go softer shapes, even in storage units. The rectangular and purist lines of the 1970s were successful in Europe but never really appealed to most British tastes, and although it is not yet technically possible to mass produce chipboard with softer lines, this will eventually come, they feel.

New Dimension also expect bedroom storage to follow the lead set by kitchens, which have been changed completely from the stark and clinical look by the new wood finishes. The days of yards and yards of white melamine are over, they say, as is pine. The successors will be interesting new coloured finishes and wood veneers in warmer shades like ash, yew and beech. A great deal of work is already going on in Sweden to develop veneers of these kinds.

The proposed fire regulations for upholstered furniture is also bound to have an effect. From June 1 upholstered furniture which does not pass a test making it resistant to smouldering cigarettes will have to carry a warning label saying that the fabric will ignite and asking users to use smoking materials with care.



Two seater sofa, £135, from a new range of flame retardant foam furniture designed by Dennis Groves and available from his studio at 9 Sicilian Avenue, London WC1.



Regency-style demilune Carlton House writing table in rosewood with satinwood inlay and brass mounts, £6,555 and Chippendale-style ladder back carver, £615.25 by William Tillman, shown with an original long case clock, c 1780, £4,350. All at Mr Tillman's new gallery at 30 St James's Street, London W1.

"Just put your coffee on the table", said William Tillman, with a casual wave towards a 6ft 6in circle of gleaming mahogany. I looked from the base of my hot coffee mug to the highly polished surface and hesitated in disbelief. "Go on", he insisted, "it won't hurt it."

He was right; I suffered more than the table top. And that is the whole point of Mr Tillman's craft—exact reproductions of Georgian furniture tailored to withstand modern living.

"What I am trying to prove is that my furniture is better than the originals", he says. "My pieces will not be affected by central heating, damp, hot dishes, all sorts of conditions that would cause the original furniture to warp, crack and stain. I allow for everything."

From anyone else that might sound inordinately arrogant. But for one thing Mr Tillman is endowed with 6ft 5in of totally unassuming charm and for another, he does know what he is talking about, having started restoring antiques when he was 15.

He began to make his own dining tables in 1958, which he sold to friends in the trade for £48. The same pieces today are selling for £800 and five years ago, he decided to give up the restoration side of his business in order to concentrate on making.

He specializes in reproducing designs from the finest period in English furniture, from 1770 to 1820, and anyone who mourns the passing of English craftsmanship should

visit his new showroom at 30 St James's Street, London, W1. Side by side with original antiques of the period, he is showing his reproductions, made by the young men he has trained. Their work is so fine that his company has three times won the Showpiece of the Year Award at the International Furniture Show.

The woods used are kiln dried so that they have a much lower moisture content than the traditional air-dried timbers. Table rails are of solid mahogany, while the originals would have been worm-prone beech. Surfaces are finished with a clear lacquer and then polished with beeswax. It is only fair to say that the effect may be a little too shiny at first, but any piece of furniture takes many years to acquire a patina and judging by a table made 13 years ago, now in the showroom, these reproductions will mellow with age, just as their original counterparts did.

Prices start at £721 for a Sheraton-style oval dining table, £1,959.60 for a Sheraton style chifferonier in mahogany, banded with satinwood and decorated with marquetry fans. You could pay up to £6,500 for a particularly magnificent table. If this seems high, consider the man hours put into each piece, the diminishing quantities of really fine antiques and the price you would have to pay for them.

You may also like to know, although Mr Tillman was too modest to tell me himself, that his furniture is in the homes of Princess Grace of Monaco and Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, and that he has restored furniture for the Queen Mother. And when he made a desk in 1976 for a lady's Chelsea home, a friend told him that it was destined for high office. He was right. When Mrs Thatcher moved to 10 Downing Street, the desk went, too.

in a cotton flax in plain oatmeal or in brown, rust or green stripes. A two-seater sofa, for example, costs £135. Customers may supply their own fabric for covering, if they prefer.

There are simple tubular trestles, too, in kit form at £16.50, beds, from £88 for a single frame, with Myers extra firm contract mattress at £54, and glass topped coffee tables at £34.50—the Embassy Club ordered these with silver tubular frames, which were particularly effective.

Another new development is a version of the bunk bed, which Dennis Groves calls the Rooster. Instead of two beds on top of each other, he has produced a table top desk area on the lower level, with a rung ladder and bed above—particularly with children's rooms in mind. The whole unit, including a 36 inch mattress costs £251.

One particular advantage of these tubular frames is that they are re-cyclable. You can buy extra tubing at £2.50 a metre and when you are tired of your chair or sofa you can turn it into a children's swing, or a garden lounge. All prices include despatch to all parts of the country.

Dennis Groves is also willing to undertake special structures for kitchens or whatever design commission you have in mind, and you can contact him at 9 Sicilian Avenue, London WC1, telephone 01-405 5603.

Fred Emery

Afghanistan: the West's opportunity

It is not suggested that partly toothless Britannia could or should charge off on any leadership crusade

The Kremlin has grimly wrung in the 1980s with its ruthless neo-Tsarist attempt to reduce Afghanistan, once for all, to a docile satellite. But there is a British minister's belief—critical opportunity amid the danger of this crisis, for both the industrial democracies and the countries of the Third World, or at least its leading ones.

It is not simply to wring hands, or sell new arms. It is to tackle again the core, and difficult and neglected problems that divide and drain us—over the price of oil, the terms of trade, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Then together, perhaps, we might draw new and higher lines for dealing with the Soviet Union.

Any such revival demands leadership, resolve and inspiration—qualities not much in sight lately, especially during an American presidential election year. But, irritating or amusing as many in Britain's political opposition undoubtedly find it, Her Majesty's present team of ministers still have their self-confidence largely intact.

Now it is not suggested for a moment that straitened and partly toothless Britannia could or should charge off on any such leadership crusade. We would risk seeming like performing midgets. But there is this fact: that a refusal to be cowed, a refusal to accept that the way things were done before means they must be followed again, are emerging as characteristics of this Government. They are certainly Mrs Thatcher's way, and they infuse the thinking of Lord Carrington, now emerging as a most unconventional Foreign Secretary.

It is the reason why Britain has been taking the lead in trying to organize some "concerted" response to Afghanistan among the western allies—the sort of thing that the Americans always complain, with justice, that we are painfully slow at achieving. It is another reason why Lord Carrington, justifiably heartened by the Rhodesia diplomacy, is next week making his visit to some of the countries close by Afghanistan.

Now it is early yet to guess

what can come of it; and it would be foolhardy to imagine that there is any grand design for large-scale constructive north-south diplomacy. We are feeling our way. But its possible that President Carter, himself much restored by the twin crises in Iran and Afghanistan, will be encouraged by any revival of allied vigour. At least, after the initial shock of the Soviet putsch in Kabul, we do not seem to be starting from those shrill positions of near panic, like the screams over the supposed "missile gap" in 1960.

Instead, there is more a willingness to accept that the Kremlin too, is capable of blunder. None of this is necessarily reassuring. But it, together with other evidence, is more assuring than if it were proven that we were in the presence of some inexorably pursuing Russian plot to grab the Middle East, and its oil, and slowly throttle us into submission. That long term Soviet plan presumably exists. But the clumsy way the Afghanistan affair was executed and presented, does not argue

good planning, nor does it argue good timing.

The Kremlin has jeopardized its purchase of grain from the United States when it needs them most; it has cast to the wind whatever hope it had of credit in the Muslim world at a time when militant Islam was aggravated against the United States; and it appears, from its silence, to have traumatized its own Warsaw Pact allies who were hoping for economic gains from détente. And it has hazarded the Olympic Games. And, judging by what happened after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, it has possibly deferred a Salt agreement for years.

Clearly, the Russian imperative to act in Kabul was extraordinarily pressing—perhaps as pressing, to preserve what it had already "invested" there, as was the American compulsion to go deeper into Vietnam in 1965 in order not to lose face.

Deriving counter-measures to make it too risky for the Russians to try this again is the West's first task. The demand for action is rising. In opposi-

tion, Mrs Thatcher wanted most consideration given to cutting off Russia from grain supplies, from new technology, and cheap loans. Tomorrow, in her first British television interview since taking office, the Prime Minister will have the opportunity to dispel a widespread impression that, so far as any rate, the western allies are only interested in a show of wrist-slapping.

No doubt the Conservatives will also use this crisis for a particular domestic advantage. The forthcoming debate over re-negotiating the British independent nuclear deterrent looks now to have been weighed heavily in the Government's favour by the Soviet action.

But playing the Iron Lady will only be taking half the opportunity, and the easier half. The Prime Minister and the Government should be pressed down the difficult route of seeking a new social compact with the developing world. After all, they have been shown what there is to lose by way of signing a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union.



Lord Carrington: justifiably heartened.

Soggy puzzles in Archimedes style

Some may solve Times Crosswords in the kitchen, using them as egg-timers, while others tackle them on the train, on the way to work. One former champion used to solve them in the wings between stage appearances, while another was wont to use them as soporifics—solving them in his customary few minutes before going to sleep at night. It would however have required the services of the late George Formby, in his window-cleaner's role, to discover the secret of one lady solver who confessed that it was her custom to do *The Times* Crossword in her bath.

So temptingly sybaritic a notion may well catch on (opening up a whole new market for crosswords printed on celluloid and chinagraph pencils that can write under water) and though it may be premature to speculate on the possibility of requiring crossword championship finalists to solve their puzzles while reclining in baths of asses' milk (which should be the media more than somewhat), a few suggestions to any readers solving such a change in life-style may not come amiss.

Ladies who have recently married husbands named George Joseph Smith should be advised to keep their wits about them whenever they may be doing in their baths. Other puzzlers are advised to ask their psycho-analysts to ensure that they show no signs of the dangerous Archimedes Complex which would compel them to jump out of their baths and streak down the street crying "Eureka" (or if they are classical scholars "Heureka") whenever they solved a particularly tricky anagram. It would also be sensible of course to instruct the builder on account to admit any visitor giving the name of Corday until five minutes after the bath-water has been heard gurgling away down the drainpipe.

Fifty years ago the very first *Times* Crosswords were being compiled to appear first in *The Times* and *Weekly Edition*, and a little later in the daily edition with *The Times* Crossword Puzzle No 1 appearing on February 1, 1930, so that the crossword on February 1, 1980, which will be by the same hand that compiled the first *Times* Crossword, will be in celebration of the Crossword's Golden Jubilee. Penguin Books are publishing *The Penguin Book of The Times 50th Anniversary Crosswords* at the same time, giving the puzzle for the first time. The book will also include much of the early and the later history of *The Times* Crossword.

Another date which cross-

word aficionados of a competitive bent may wish to note is next Friday, January 11, when the qualifying puzzle of the 1980 Curry Sark/Time National Crossword Championship will appear with the full conditions and programme of events. For the benefit of any newcomers anxious to enter the lists, the qualifying puzzle is of no more than average difficulty so there is a possibility that some of the regional finals may be over-subscribed.

A headnote to the puzzle appearing on February 15 will state whether successful entrants for any, and so which, prizes are required to attempt the Eliminator Puzzle which, if it is needed, will be the puzzle published on that day. The Eliminator Puzzle is the only puzzle in the year which is designed to defeat a large proportion of solvers—otherwise it would not achieve its aim of reducing the entries to the numbers for whom accommodation is available—but only the least successful attempts will be eliminated, so that a solution containing several errors may still qualify.

Each regional final, as also the National Final, consists of four thirty-minute sessions, with one normal-standard crossword to be solved at each. The whole programme takes place between (approximately) 1.30 and 5.30 p.m. Competitors correctly solving a puzzle in under 30 minutes will receive time bonus points equal to the number of minutes saved, and the totals of time bonus points will be used to decide between competitors with equal puzzle scores (one point for each clue correctly solved). One competitor qualifies for the National Final for every 60 entrants taking part in the various regional finals.

The full schedule of dates is as follows: qualifying puzzle, January 11; eliminator puzzle (if needed) February 15; regional finals—Birmingham, March 23; Edinburgh, March 30; York, April 20; Bristol, May 18; Chester, June 1; London A, July 12; London B, July 13. The National Final will be at the Europa Hotel, London, on the afternoon of Sunday, September 14.

Curry Sark Scotch Whisky, who have sponsored the Championship since its inception in 1970, will be giving prizes to all regional champions, and some of their own brand of liquid consolation to those attaining second, third and fourth places, while the National Champion will receive the Curry Sark Silver Trophy, a weekend for two in Paris and a television set, the next three places winning weekends for two in Paris, Amsterdam and either London or Edinburgh.

Whether they prefer railway carriages, armchairs, baths or Championship hot-seats for their crossword enjoyment, may I wish our readers good puzzling through the eighties.

Edmund Akenhead

Crossword Editor

'International Anthem'

Music by Stanley Myers. Words by Christopher Logue



From the painted caves of Lascaux to the mouth of Outer Space what mortal goes so fast so far as the Mighty Human Race?

And the speechless beasts co-operate in Man's tempestuous feats; the tougher kind he puts to work, while the toothsome sort, he eats.

On the West hand—Private Enterprise on the East—the Worldwide Plan, marching onwards through the Universe goes the Family of Man!

© Myers and Logue, 1980.

Everyman: filling the black holes

At the dawn of the modern world Renaissance Everyman could aspire to a smattering of all that there was to be known. We, his modern epigoni, cannot aim so high. Our ambitions have dwindled, while knowledge has branched out prodigiously. So those of us bothered by the black holes in our general knowledge fortify our ignorance with reference books, in case we are bored by a griddle, or need a quick reminder of the Method of Least Squares, or have forgotten that the Kachas are Armenian fairies that should never be trusted.

While *The Times* was adding to the encircling gloom by introducing Rip Van Winkle, one of our principal bastions against oblivion, *Everyman's Encyclopedia*, was reformed by the publication of its sixth edition. *Britannica* is bigger and tries to be the repository of all knowledge presented in quite a less orderly way by the top scholars in their red and ivory towers. But its new tripartite division is a nuisance, and one does not always have the time or the thrust for knowledge to plough through an article of 200,000 words.

Mitchell Beazley has a new structure that is more useful for looking some things up than others. *Caxton* is for kiddies. *Columbia* in one volume is the nearest thing to our *Everyman*, which has 51,000 headwords, 6,000 illustrations, and more than eight million words arranged in 12 volumes.

Everyman traces its ancestry back by way of *Knights' Encyclopedia* to the *Penny Cyclopaedia*, published in penny fascicles between 1833 and 1843 for the improvement of the working classes by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. After bitter litigation with *Britannica*, *Everyman's* first edition was published between 1913 and 1914 in 12 volumes at a shilling a volume. The notion was that every working man should have a companion to make up for his lack of formal education, and to explain anything he might bump into in *Everyman* literature or the book of life itself.

The encyclopedia has moved

up market as well as growing bigger and more expensive. But it still tries to give the general reader clear, concise answers free from jargon, and to be comprehensive, but not necessarily exhaustive, or exhaustive. The editor of the new edition was David Gilling, a bibliophile, a polygraphist, and a student of encyclopaedists from Diderot to William Smellie, the first editor of *Britannica*, who was Smellie by name and smelly by nature, but wrote most of the articles himself. Gilling left school at 17 to spend six years as a bombardier in the Royal Artillery, the last three of them at the Woomera Rocket Range, where there was nothing to do but drink or read. He became a bibliophile, a polygraphist, and a student of encyclopaedists.

He joined Dent to produce the new *Everyman* in 1972. His predecessor had started the process of revision by annotating his copy in a crabbed hand with crabby glosses: under Tolstoy: "Yes, but he was dirty and smelly"; under the entry for tolls: "And what, pray, means to tollage one's villain's?" Under *Transubstantiation*: "Such odd things are happening in the Roman Catholic Church today."

To make a new encyclopedia you begin by cutting up sets of the previous edition into headwords, and sorting them into subject categories: the largest are always the gazetteer and biographies, and I am not sure that I want the former at any rate in my encyclopedia. Then you decide how many words to allow each category, how much for new entries, how much for complete revision, how much for amendment. Then you send the parcels out to your 400 contributors (in the case of *Everyman* young heads of department rather than extinct volcanoes). They reply by return that they need more space; so you try to steal some from quieter categories of knowledge.

After 18 months the articles trickle in, and have to be

edited to a very tight house style, for everything from Chinese characters to mathematical symbols for the computer's magnetic tape, which proceeds to regurgitate all your Polish hooks as Turkish cedillas. You accumulate a vast computer bank of data, from which one day, with luck, you will be able to extract other specialist reference books, for instance a Middle East Encyclopedia or a companion to the verbiage discipline of sociology.

At the end of his marathon of general knowledge, in January David Gilling gasps: "This encyclopedia is designed as a working tool for the professional to keep by his or her desk. It provides information immediately in fairly crisp, understandable form. If you want to plunge in more deeply, a bibliography is provided with all the main articles."

Eight million words are not many to summarize the tree of knowledge. Inevitably such a concise survey is superficial when it deals with a subject one knows about. Just you try to reduce the plot of the Aeneid to six lines, or catch Housman's poetry in a sentence ("small statements of regret and pain in a pastoral setting," Pshaw). Although the cross-referencing is quite extensive, *Everyman* really does need an index. I ask myself, do I really want to meet Merlyn Rees in my source of general knowledge?

But *Everyman* is an elegant and handy fortification against blank ignorance until we can dial some great central data bank to have the information we want flashed on a screen: not for some time, I hope. And now, if you will excuse me, I want to reassure myself about the fabulous, indeed improbable, Chinese bird Fum, and the unlucky Evariste Galois. Actually, no peasant, the vol is very sound on Henry James: "... new drama of psychological consciousness in which technique and aesthetic concerns predominate."

Philip Howard

Everyman's Encyclopedia, sixth edition (Dent, £175)

Fungi for keeping

The damp, mild weather is encouraging crop after crop of moulds to emerge, particularly in sheltered places and the woods.

While they keep on appearing, the fungi-gourmets sally forth to look for the esculent species. They carry baskets which are quickly filled even though all those that are traditionally edible need not be like the field mushrooms, favourable to look at. The lurid "saffron milk caps" (*Lactarius deliciosus*) for example, growing in coniferous woods, look evil with the hollow, concentric, ringed orange caps frequently exuding drops of equally lurid milk. They have been prized since Pliny wrote of their virtues and they were pictured in the frescoes at Pompeii.

Small black "horns of plenty" (*Craterellus cornucopides*), clustering in grey-mouthed trumpet shapes, lurk among the leaf-mould under beeches and oaks and are still less attractive apart from the wonderment they arouse when, as this year, they have been found in troops extending for many yards. *Cepes* (*Boletus edulis*) are after but a penny bun roundness and well worth collecting to string up without their stalks, to grotesque necklaces in dry warm places, for preservation for future culinary use.

"Fairy-ring champignons" (*Marasmius oreades*) are still coming up sparsely on lawns open to winter sun. They smell of mushrooms, but are not, but it gets stronger as their bonneted caps are dried, but they too are worth gathering. "Blewitts" (*Lepista saevum*) will go on producing colourful fruiting-bodies after hard frosts. They look too picturesque to use for the pot, but are tasty and easy to find, like the "oyster mushrooms" (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), that bracket their way down dying tree branches and trunks. As long as any of these can be picked while they are fresh and positively identified, they are safe for eating.

Alison Ross

SPORTS DIARY

Golfing tales from Rye

Fifty years ago the entry for the President's Putter was less than half its present entry of 110 and played fitted comfortably into two days; but what wealth of talent those mild figures conceal. Sir Ernest Holderness who kept winning the event and was an amateur champion was runner-up that year to Dale Bourn who himself was to become a runner-up in the Amateur. The previous year Holderness had won his fifth Putter, defeating Cyril Tolley who later the same year won the Amateur title.

In the semifinals with them had been Harold Gillies who, at the time, was better known at Rye for his skill in furiously lighting fireworks beneath the benches in the Dormy House billiards room than for his consummate skill as a plastic surgeon, and Speakman.

Speakman never attained such celebrity but his immortality is secured by the

story about him which had its roots in his victory that same year over Bernard Darwin. He hesitated to tell it because to non-golfers it might put Darwin in a bad light, but it arose from playing off the short 14th, a different hole from the present, in which Darwin's finely struck tee-shot hit the green and bounced like a frightened hare over the back of the speaker's head. The speaker's shot was a baggy one which bobbed its way on to the edge of the green from where he sank an enormous putt for a two in reply to a courageous recovery by Darwin which would have ensured a three.

Darwin cursed the hole, he cursed the course which he loved so well, he cursed everything and added his trade: "And furthermore, Speakman, God damn you". Speakman, a mild-mannered schoolmaster was not used to such verbal pyrotechnics but Darwin, as always, was the soul of courtesy in print. Speakman, he said was a redoubtable competitor and deserved to win, but he could not refrain from a revealing comment at the end of his piece about the golf in

general that day: "The golf was scarcely golf but a game of its own which could be skillfully and courageously played but which was at times both fluky and exasperating."

That description fits not only the conditions of his match but that of scores of matches since including many this week. The entry is lighter in quality these days. The Blues are no longer the best amateurs in the country, and Walker Cup teams in the past 20 years have recruited only five Oxbridge men to their ranks—Alec Shepperson, Brian Chapman, Gordon Huddy, Michael Attenborough and David Marsh. I would not know whether the enjoyment of this tournament is as intense as it used to be. The evening jinks in the Dormy House which has remained, so to speak, the officers' mess of the occasion, are from all accounts lower than they used to be in the days when the speaker at one of their dinners was gently crowned with a willow-patterned po as he spoke by a Joker emerging from the folds of the curtains behind him. Perhaps it is as well: such escapades hardly suit the mood

of the country today. But a fine balance between good humour and serious endeavour on the course still prevails and that is a most important element in the game. For one blessed week prize money has no foothold anywhere in the world. The United States tour has nothing, the opening scene of their programme beginning next week with the Bob Hope tournament. There is nothing of significance in South Africa, Australia, Japan or the Algarve. The golf world has ground to a halt which is one reason why this little jewel of a tournament of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society this week becomes larger than life.

In California the American robots are preparing to open their spring tour with the Bob Hope (American) tournament as we should call it now that we have a British counterpart here this summer. Some of the more tiresome features of that big event have fortunately been dropped for the British version—fortunately that is for the golf writers. In the United States, the tournament is played over four courses and five days. A conscientious colleague who

was over there to cover the event remembers driving his hired car out to one of the courses, Spyglass Hill—to watch Tony Jacklin. It was pouring with rain and by the time he had found the course he had only an hour and a half before he had to send his copy, the time being eight hours. He watched five holes during which nothing of the slightest importance took place then returned in a bad humour to base. Bernard Levin writing recently of the magnetic qualities of cigarette cards referred to the high quality of the writing on the back of the cards which would be lost if people gave way to the natural desire to frame them. His words about cruelty to cigarette cards fell on sympathetic ears in respect of at least one member of the society, Mr Richard Parton.

Mr Parton is something of a rare specimen himself, one of those distinguished few who joined the society after coming down and without having won a Blue. I do not know how many cigarette cards he has—I am doubtful whether he does—but if swaps are anything to go by and they surely are, he has 15,000.

He would not dream of sticking them into anything and he values highly what is written on the back. As a golfer how could he do otherwise? Among the many series of golfing cards, courses, players, golfing terms—are some exquisite examples of the Darwinian touch. My favourites are a series of "Can you beat Bogey?" in which he introduces three golfers who form the subject of another series "Three Golfers in Search of the Perfect Course". Mr Tiger is a Byronic dream cad. Mr Everyman, like most of us, thought he was better than he was and became puce with fury when he was made to realize that he was not and Mr Rabbit wore a dreadful cap and was always saving the wrong thing.

Mr Parton may in the context of the Putter be Mr Everyman, but as a caricature of a golfer they are called he is Mr Tiger.

It would not be difficult, though it would be ridiculous, to surround the Big Three with clouds of immortality. A grizzled agelessness has enveloped the eldest of them, Arnold Palmer; a slight intensification of the one or two deep furrows

on the face of Gary Player are all that he has conceded to the passage of time; while the youngest of the three, Jack Nicklaus moves, when he is so inclined, as briskly and as purposefully about his business as ever. It is salutary therefore to be reminded that last autumn Palmer celebrated his 50th birthday. As though in defiance of the calendar, he later finished third in the Brazilian Open and, hopping thence to Cape Town for another tournament, broke 70 in the first round.

One has only to hunt behind the back of one's hand that perhaps Player's best days are behind him, for him to deliver a smart snub, such as his 64 in winning the Masters two years ago, or his four victories in a row before Christmas in his native land. The youngest of the Three remains the greatest enigma.

As long as any of these can be picked while they are fresh and positively identified, they are safe for eating.

Alison Ross

مكتبات الصحف



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GRAIN AS A WEAPON

If President Carter really wants to hurt the Soviet Union for its invasion of Afghanistan he can stop grain shipments. His Department of Agriculture is now studying the implications, and so are his political advisers. Both will find the problems daunting. It is not an easy decision. What is not in doubt is that the Russians would feel this weapon more than they feel the cancellation of visits or the suspension of the Salt debate in the Senate.

They had a particularly bad harvest last year which brought in only 179 million tonnes. This is 56 million tonnes less than the previous year and a long way below the average annual target of 215 million tonnes for the current five-year plan. As a consequence they plan to import about 32 million tonnes in the year ending next September. Of this 25 million would come from the United States. About 3.6 million have already been shipped. The rest is going out at a rate of about 1.5 million tonnes a week, which is the maximum that Soviet ports can handle.

At least two-thirds of American grain that goes to the Soviet Union is destined for animals. Presumably an embargo would cause animals to be slaughtered, which would temporarily increase the supply of meat and then sharply reduce it. Nobody would starve as there is enough bread

and other basic foodstuffs but the consumer would soon notice that meat was becoming even more difficult to find than it is now in many parts of the Soviet Union. Added to the wider difficulties which the Soviet economy is now facing—industrial growth is far short of its targets—the result of a grain embargo would be much more than a minor inconvenience, especially if Australia and Canada joined in.

Should the United States exploit this weakness? The arguments against doing so will obviously weigh heavily on President Carter. He was rash enough to indicate during his election campaign that he would be unlikely to use this weapon, and in about three weeks the farming state of Iowa is choosing its delegates for the Democratic convention. The political penalties for alienating the farmers might not be balanced by any significant drop in consumer prices. Then there is the problem of what to do with the unsold grain. Would it be stored or unloaded onto the world market at reduced prices? What would be the effect of the extra freight capacity on shipping interests?

But the question to start from is whether an embargo would have the desired effect on the Soviet Union. Obviously there are dangers in starting a spiral of action and counter-action which could lead towards a

serious confrontation. The more the Soviet Union was hurt by a grain embargo the more it might feel compelled to hurt the United States in some way. Relations could unravel too fast for either side to control.

On the other hand there are very serious dangers in allowing the Soviet Union to develop the confidence that it can march into other countries without paying any significant price at all. So far nothing that Mr Carter has done will cause more than a ripple in the Kremlin.

(The Salt treaty was stalled in the Senate anyway, and there are certainly generals in Moscow who would be glad to be rid of it.) Any penalty that hurts is liable to provoke retaliation. This is a risk that must be taken for the sake of averting greater risks in the future.

A grain embargo is a suitable measure because it can be applied gradually and abandoned easily if the situation changes and because it does not involve a direct challenge to Soviet security. Mr Carter should use it. His electoral considerations are understandable, and he might be forgiven for extending his study of the problem until Iowa has made its decision, but in the long term he would suffer far greater political damage if he were seen to be putting his own interests above those of the nation and the alliance.

ON THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER

The Russian invasion of Afghanistan to ensure that the government in Kabul should behave in accordance with Russian wishes is a direct blow at the non-aligned movement. Not all the members of that loosely organized movement will take an identical view of the Soviet action. But that Soviet action in Afghanistan touches the interests of the non-aligned world as no action against Hungary or Czechoslovakia did can escape those countries nearest to the scene. One is India, the home of non-alignment, where a new government may emerge next week. More immediately affected are Iran and Pakistan, both at one time members of the Cento Treaty but now feeling themselves to be more identified with the Muslim world in rejecting that western sponsored alliance in favour of non-alignment. It is natural that in the fact-finding tour on which Lord Carrington sets out next week Pakistan should be an important port of call.

It will not be the Foreign Secretary's aim—or the aim of any western government in the current crisis—to go on a recruiting mission round the third world of the kind that was familiar in the days of the cold war, when each side counted its allies and thought itself the more successful if any outsiders could be bribed, or persuaded, or engineered by underhand means into their camp. That kind of cold war anxiety was always mistaken and often drove countries into the non-aligned camp

in protest. The only possible attitude now must be to allow each country to make up its own mind. That does not mean any forsaking of the principles of non-alignment but, on the contrary, their reaffirmation. Non-aligned countries have already faced one such test at last year's conference of the movement in Havana, when Cuba tried to persuade them to adopt a favourable view of the Soviet Union, with the implication that the Russians could only, and always by the very nature of Moscow's faith, be the friends of the non-aligned. The tanks in Kabul are enough answer to that.

For Pakistan, unfortunately, the cautious but firm response to the Russian action is only the first step. Many difficult political and military decisions are likely to follow. This troubled border has for thirty years past been a subject of dispute, with Afghanistan's claim for Pathan unity—under Kabul's patronage as Pakhtoonistan—pressed as vigorously in the Daoud era as it has been by the revolutionary government that came to power in April 1978. Pakistan has weathered this claim in the confidence that the Pathans who live in the North-west frontier provinces or in Baluchistan are happier to be ruled from Islamabad than from Kabul.

Now the problems are much more complex with a rag-bag of anti-communist Afghans crossing the frontier into Pakistan so that Pakistan is willy-nilly thought to be implicated in the punitive measures now being taken by Soviet troops as far afield as

Bamian and Herat. If Soviet intentions are strictly confined to dominating the government in Kabul then Pakistan need not feel threatened. But a Pakistan that has seen its own unity diluted in the past year than at any time since Bangladesh emerged as a separate nation is bound to feel apprehensive. The frontier will now have a political current running along it that it never had before.

Pakistan's reaction thus far has been first to reaffirm her attachment to non-alignment. At the same time the need for arms has meant an approach to the Americans that follows only a few weeks after the outbreak of Muslim xenophobia in the burning of the American Embassy in Islamabad. Immediately, as if touching a nerve alone rather than from any serious consideration of what this might imply, there came a protest from India. It is true that Pakistan's relations with the western world have not been very happy of late and the current crisis over Afghanistan could be welcome as a way back into mutual good graces. But that will be no departure from Pakistan's independent stand, nor should it be grounds for anxiety in India. It would certainly be no help to either country if India and Pakistan were to take radically different views of the Russian action in Afghanistan and thereby to fan the embers of an old enmity. Pakistan is well aware of this factor and the same prudence can be expected of any government that is formed in India next week.

STATE OF THE PROFESSIONS

It is a curious paradox that a decade when the disciples of Ivan Illich have been vociferously demanding the de-professionalization of our society should also have seen a determined pursuit of professional status by many groups of workers. Hardly a year goes by without the establishment of some new institute with its qualifying examinations and diplomas.

Members of the old learned and chartered professions are often puzzled by the fervent desire of those in other occupations to join their ranks. During the 1970s the professions suffered badly in both remuneration and status in comparison with other groups of workers. Incomes policies and productivity deals were not appropriate to their methods of work and pay and they saw rewards and power going increasingly to those in trade unions.

Yet it is not surprising that professional status is still craved by those in occupations which do not possess it. The professions have emerged from the 1970s with their considerable privileges and monopolies largely unscathed. The Royal Commission on Legal Services recommended a strengthening of the near-monopoly of conveying enjoyed by solicitors. The Government has given doctors more

even than they asked for in terms of allowing National Health Service consultants to practise privately.

There is an obvious attraction too in the self-regulation of means of entry and of standards of conduct which remains one of the hallmarks of a profession. It is not surprising that, for example, school teachers and social workers should be pursuing that particular goal so avidly at the present time. For many years the professions have operated closed shops and maintained immunities from legal interference and public criticism just as effective as those now enjoyed by trade unions.

There are, in fact, some striking similarities between professional associations and trade unions. Neither have been conspicuous for their enlightenment and forward-looking attitudes towards the general public welfare. Many people would not doubt still find apposite Arnold Bennett's comment on the medical and legal professions, made 65 years ago, that "their two great unions are among the most vicious opponents of social progress in Britain today".

Yet there is, of course, one essential difference. Professional associations are bound by their

charters to consider the interests of the public and to promote the standards and development of their profession as well as to forward the immediate interests of their members. For an occupation to become a profession in the commonly accepted sense of the word means more than for its practitioners to enjoy the privileges of controlling their own entry and regulating their own conduct. It means also that they must have specialized skills acquired by intellectual and practical training, that they have a high degree of detachment and integrity, and above all, that they have a strong sense of responsibility and an exceptional commitment to the interests of their clients which transcends all other commitments.

The possession of these qualities has been the basis on which the privileges of self-regulation have been conferred on the established professions. The public is already demanding that trade unions be made more accountable for their privileges and immunities. As more occupations come to assume the forms of professional status, it will also be right to demand that the qualities of professionalism are in existence before its privileges are granted.

British Council cuts

From Lord Reilly
Sir, I should like, not only as a member of the British Council's Fine Arts Advisory Committee, but also as President of the World Crafts Council, to add my plea that the British Council should be spared its threatened cuts, for I am in a good position to judge that, at minimal cost, the British Council is poised to repeat in the field of the crafts its great achievement in winning worldwide acclaim for the work of post-war British sculptors and painters.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL REILLY,
President,
World Crafts Council,
House of Lords,
December 28.

Cost to Britain of the EEC

From Dr K. W. Hardy
Sir, I like Mr John Braddock (December 18), to have been involved in a small way in a French agricultural reorganization scheme. This is referred to officially as *Régimentation Foncière et de Remembrement*, is an essential part of their agricultural policy and has much to commend it. It is, I believe, generally welcomed by farming communities but they are critical of the cost of the initial elaboration of the civil servants and the wasteful and often nonsensical conditions required to be observed by the commune before they receive their grants.

For instance, in the region of which I have some knowledge, it has been decreed that all roads in the area should not only have a

tarmac surface but also be nine metres wide. This is applied rigidly and without purpose even to rural roads several miles long which adequately serve the needs of small cottages.

Obviously this is a civil servants' paradise if they are paid, as Mr Braddock has indicated, a percentage on the cost of the works they initiate.

Since we are presumably making a large contribution to finance this sort of nonsense, Mr Peter Walker might well ask to examine the French books, or, alternatively consider adopting a similar policy in our own agricultural communities. Yours faithfully,
K. W. HARDY,
Borden Hall,
Borden,
Sittingbourne,
Kent,
December 20.

The Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan

From Mr Christopher Dickinson
Sir, The contrast between the events in Afghanistan and the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia has been an obvious one, but not entirely accurate or desirable.

Mr Luns (report, January 2) suggests that "this is the first time that the Soviet Union has used its military power directly and massively in a country not belonging to the Soviet block", while in your leader (January 2) you comment on Russia's "act of unprovoked aggression against a sovereign country outside its own alliance". There seems to be confusion as to what exactly is the proper Soviet sphere of influence, if one assumes that there is one at all. Certainly it should not be equated with a military alliance, for the Warsaw Pact was formed after the West had handed over Eastern Europe to Soviet control. It is, in effect, very much what the great powers want to be at any particular point of time.

Afghanistan has traditionally been an area in which Russia has exerted influence or actively intervened, over a period of time that eclipses her role in Czechoslovakia history: the failure of the West to react to the overthrow of Daoud, and its passive acceptance of Afghanistan's transformation into a satellite state, can only have confirmed Russia's belief that Afghanistan is treated by the West as being in the Soviet block. To the contrary, even a new and dangerous escalation in Russian international aggression is misleading and to the Kremlin is probably incomprehensible.

The contrast, then, is really no contrast at all: something which we implicitly recognize in that there has been no serious suggestion (as yet) of the West becoming militarily involved. It is another Czechoslovakia. If, of course, he argued that the West was wrong in 1968, and that no country can lose its international rights to a soviet state merely through a "Mousetrap" mentality, whether it be American or Russian. If, though, we do accept the principle of the "sphere of interest" then it's most irresponsible to continue to distinguish between Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan—it suggests that the West is prepared to give military assistance to safeguard the independence of truly sovereign states.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DICKINSON,
Kent College,
Canterbury,
January 2.

From Mr Peter Hain

Sir, Lord Harris (January 3) followed a well trodden path in accusing the left in general and myself in particular of having a "selective conscience" over Soviet aggression and brutality, in this case the invasion of Afghanistan. His accusation is false and malicious. I condemn outright the invasion: I protested against the Russian takeover of Czechoslovakia (in a series of demonstrations organized by left wing groups); and I have repeatedly opposed both Soviet denials of human rights and their various imperialist foreign ventures. Lord Harris chooses to ignore, in addition to the Russian invasion of Russia's Afghanistan by the left of the Labour Party.

The selectivity of conscience, surely, lies amongst those on the centre and right of British politics who consistently run a blind eye to atrocities committed in the name of "democracy" by the West and its allies (eg, Vietnam, Cambodia, Chile, South Africa). And that explains why these issues tend to provoke most visible protest from the British left: we are forced to

stand up against hypocrisy or complicity by Britain and her allies in either direct brutality or denials of human rights. In so doing, we often challenge the prevailing consensus in the political establishment and the media. But over Soviet aggression or repression, the West suddenly rediscovers its democratic values and trumpets its condemnation. There is consequently little need for people like me to organize campaigns when there is such a strong and broad consensus of opinion.

There is one other pertinent point. I am frequently charged with not doing enough or even anything about a multitude of important issues about which particular groups of people feel strongly—from vivisection to Cambodia. My reply is simple: to protest about everything is to end up protesting effectively about nothing. I feel as strongly about Afghanistan as Lord Harris purports to. But I haven't the time, resources or energy to organize another campaign. On the other hand, if he decides to translate his rhetoric into action and organize one, I would be happy to consider supporting it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HAIN,
35 Felsham Road,
Putney, SW15,
January 3.

From Mr J. A. Norris

Sir, Your Moscow Correspondent, in a dispatch published on New Year's Eve, has been one of the first to draw attention to the full historical significance of the Soviet Union's advance into Afghanistan. What has not so far been noticed is that the strategic foundations now crumbling under the weight of Russian armour were laid by the Duke of Wellington and his colleagues, notably Ellenborough, 150 years ago almost to the day.

It was the Duke of Wellington as Prime Minister who gave the signal for the opening of "the great game". The strategy was to keep the Russians out of the Indian sub-continent (and out of Iran) by slowing up their advance in Central Asia and excluding them above all from Afghanistan. Secret communications to the Governor of Bengal, 12.1.1830. Later governments applied the same grand strategy in varying forms and to different degrees, but always with the same purpose.

As your Moscow Correspondent noted, what is happening now brings nearer the fruition of Russian imperial hope. For centuries Russian strategists have had their eyes on the warm waters of the south. Now they have large numbers of troops in the positions which will enable them to sweep across the most strategic of all to the security of the Indian sub-continent. Today the Russians have reached Herat at last. One can only look into 1980 with deep foreboding about the future of India, Pakistan and Iran.

Our own experience in Afghanistan in two 19th century wars offers one consolation, however. The British and Indian armies learned the hard way that no one trespasses on Afghan soil with impunity. The Soviet forces now in Afghanistan will soon discover for themselves: their advance guard may have learned the fearful lesson already.

We, too, went into Afghanistan in 1839 and again in 1878 with superior technology, fire power and military discipline. We, too, appeared to have brought stability to a turbulent country, but the stability was illusory and short lived. We did better at the second attempt, but only because Abdur Rahman returned from exile in

1880 to knock tribal heads together and rule as only an Afghan could.

The alternatives now open to Moscow are harsh repression, begging more and more resistance and the risk of a counter-intervention, or a withdrawal as soon as one is possible without humiliation, leaving Afghanistan once more as the buffer state which nature designed it to be.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. NORRIS,
Devon Cottage,
Bessels Green,
Sevenoaks,
Kent,
January 1.

From the Director of the United Nations Association

Sir, There is a possibility of Soviet actions in Afghanistan being taken to the United Nations Security Council. It is worth noting that if a Resolution is worded so that it comes under Chapter VII of the Charter on the Pacific Settlement of Disputes, the USSR should not be allowed to veto and consequently exercise a veto, but would have to abstain, being a party to the dispute.

Article 27 Paragraph 3 of the United Nations Charter reads: "Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members; provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. HARDING,
Director,
United Nations Association
of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland,
3 Whitehall Court, SW1.

From Brigadier F. E. C. Hughes

Sir, As an old officer of the Indian Air Force, I cannot help having some small feeling for the plight and problems of the Russian Army in Afghanistan. For over one hundred years the Army in India tried to intervene in the political affairs of Afghanistan. We invaded Afghanistan twice; the first time in 1838 with utter disaster, and the second in 1880 to little purpose. And during that last hundred years we tried without success to subdue the Pathan tribes of the North West Frontier who are, in practice, just a branch of the Pashtu-speaking Afghan tribes across the border.

As one who has had considerable personal experience of engaging in military operations against the hill men of those regions I know exactly what the Russian Army is up against. I firmly believe that the Russians have been off a lot more than they can chew. Let them stew in their own juice, and go on wasting a lot of military effort to no purpose.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. C. HUGHES,
59 Thomas Street,
Gloucester,
January 3.

From Mr Colin Crokin

Sir, A few weeks ago, with a great fanfare, Mr Brezhnev withdrew tanks and troops from East Germany. We now know where they went to.

Western policy should be clear: no wheat, no butter, no "chips", no SALT-2 and no Olympics.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN CROKIN,
Parkfield,
Greaves Road,
Lancaster,
January 2.

From Mr Denis Bennett

Sir, This morning my train was its customary ten minutes late on its 20 minute journey. It had in no way been delayed by the passenger with the lone bicycle (a British Rail emblem).

He did not injure anyone nor cause anyone to fall over in surprise despite the unexpectedness of his presence and the inclemency of the weather. No passenger complained that his presence was in any way irksome. Indeed he was seen to receive messages of encouragement and good will from fellow commuters.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS BENNETT,
50 Ashdown Drive,
Boreham Wood.

From Mr George Mikes

Sir, I did not get Mr Levin's goods outside Fortnum and I have an impeccable alibi to prove it. Yet I should like to protest against one of his remarks which is derogatory to the thief. He says "wondering why he doesn't work for his living as I do". Whatever else we may think about him he certainly does work for his living. His job, indeed, is more dangerous than Mr Levin's. All we can hope for is that he is not quite such a hard worker as Mr Levin.

And may I use the courtesy of your columns to send a second message to the thief? Will he carefully go through all those papers and should they contain notes for yet another article on Richard Wagner will he please return the briefcase, the presents, the tape-recorder but keep—for goodness' sake—the notes.

I remain, Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MIKES,
18 Dorncliffe Road, SW6,
January 2.

From Mr H. T. Richards

Sir, We know that the late Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein often, with justification, walked tall but surely the creak to your picture of the site of his enthralling statue is something of an exaggeration when it refers to a "life-size model 14 feet high". Yours faithfully,
H. T. RICHARDS,
47 Mayflower Way,
Chipping Ongar,
Essex,
January 3.

Access to Stansted by road

From the Chairman of the British Tourist Authority

Sir, The Chief Executive of British Airways (January 3) is, of course, quite right that the option of developing Stansted to its full potential must be kept open.

But if Stansted is to be developed no one as yet seems to have paid adequate attention to road access to it. It is no answer to say that many, perhaps even most, passengers will go from London by train; there will inevitably be many who prefer to go by road, and many lorries too. Yet anyone who, as I do, knows the dreadful road congestion particularly at peak times, in getting to the southern end of the M11, knows too that to clog these busy London streets with heavy airport traffic would result in an intolerable situation.

To get from the West End to the start of the motorway can now take as much as 1½ hours at peak times yet, so far as I can see, this—no mind-boggling defect in the Stansted proposals has received no adequate attention. I am told the M11 may be extended to Hackney, but this would be of help to very few passengers and certainly to virtually none of our overseas visitors.

If the Stansted plans are to go ahead, the problem of road access to inner London must be satisfactorily solved first.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY PARKING, Chairman,
British Tourist Authority,
Queen's House,
64 St James's Street, SW1,
January 3.

Noise at Heathrow

From Mr A. M. Rentoul

Sir, Mr Wans, Chief Executive of British Airways, very properly (January 3) declares BA's interest in the noise problem at Heathrow. He supports your view (leading article, December 18) that the government should keep open the possibility of a fifth terminal at Heathrow.

BA is convinced, he states, that there are no valid arguments (including noise) that outweigh the very large national advantages of developing Heathrow to what he claims to be its full potential. On the other hand, the planning Inspector—a Queen's Counsel during the public inquiry on the subject in 1978 reported it as his view that the present levels of noise, in flight around Heathrow are unacceptable in a civilized country and that everything which can be done to lessen this noise should be done. He accepted predictions that with Terminal 4 the decrease in noise levels which could reasonably be anticipated by 1980 would be less than 1.5 or 2 points than would be the case if T4 were not built. Nevertheless the Inspector found, he said, that this effect of T4 in slowing down the improvement even to this limited extent should only be accepted if at all because of overriding national necessity.

Are we to understand that BA's estimated earnings from operations at Heathrow, whether £360 million or any other figure, is the national necessity which overrides any "reasonable" judiciously estimated as unacceptable in a civilized country? Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY RENTOUL, Chairman,
Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise,
Strawberry Hill Road,
Twickenham,
Middlesex,
January 4.

Taking cycles by rail

From Mr Denis Bennett
Sir, This morning my train was its customary ten minutes late on its 20 minute journey. It had in no way been delayed by the passenger with the lone bicycle (a British Rail emblem).

He did not injure anyone nor cause anyone to fall over in surprise despite the unexpectedness of his presence and the inclemency of the weather. No passenger complained that his presence was in any way irksome. Indeed he was seen to receive messages of encouragement and good will from fellow commuters.

Yours faithfully,
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50 Ashdown Drive,
Boreham Wood.

Mr Levin's thief

From Mr George Mikes
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I remain, Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MIKES,
18 Dorncliffe Road, SW6,
January 2.

Monty's double

From Mr H. T. Richards
Sir, We know that the late Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein often, with justification, walked tall but surely the creak to your picture of the site of his enthralling statue is something of an exaggeration when it refers to a "life-size model 14 feet high". Yours faithfully,
H. T. RICHARDS,
47 Mayflower Way,
Chipping Ongar,
Essex,
January 3.

Race in the 1981 Census

From Mrs Ann Bone

Sir, Like the Executive Committee of the Social Research Association, Mr David Lane, Chairman of the Commission on Racial Equality (December 31) argues for an ethnic question in the census but fails to specify what kind of a policy could be derived from the information elicited in this way which could be applied without violating the English tradition of tolerance.

It has already been found that blackness is inadequate as a surrogate indicator of language difficulties among children. Are there social policies in other fields from which a kind of race and colour is not only useful but indispensable?

The answer has to be good to overcome the problems admitted even by many advocates of the ethnic question: the problem of just what question to ask about

Guy Liddell

From Mr Ewen E. S. Montagu, QC
Sir, May I briefly add my support to the refutation by Sir Dick White (report, December 31) of the latest example of character assassination of a dead man who served his country well—that of the late Guy Liddell.

Mr Mure "justified" his attack by informing you that Mr Liddell "had deliberately misruined information which would have warned the United States about Japan's intention to attack Pearl Harbour". That allegation is wholly unfounded.

Mr Mure, who served in the Middle East, may not understand the facts of that time and is mistaken in saying that the information

was misdirected, deliberately or otherwise. The United States was still neutral: the OSS had not yet been formed; the only link through which most secret intelligence of this nature and source could be passed was through the FBI, then at the height of its fame.

For that, apart from many other cogent reasons, the information was passed to the FBI. That J. Edgar Hoover, its famous chief, would completely fail to appreciate its value, truth and importance could not then have been foreseen and was not the fault of Mr Liddell.

I am, Sir, etc.
EWEN E. S. MONTAGU,
24 Montrose Court,
Exhibition Road, SW7,
December 31.

The PLO and Israel

From Dr J. M. Wober

Sir, Christopher Mayhew, Lord Caradon and others continue to belabour William Frankel, David Jacobs and their friends in their columns in a manner that adds little to an understanding of events in the Holy Land, and actually deters the advent of peace there. Mr Mayhew insists that Israel is inhuman to the Palestinians, that all Islam yearns for Jerusalem, that Israeli propaganda pours forth from western sources but that it has been quite ineffective; a supporter from Frome even believes that Israel can somehow exist without Zionism, which is as absurd as supposing that Christianity could exist without

Jesus Christ. We are asked to press for some Erid Elyon type of happy ending that will somehow settle the Palestinians amicably next to Israel and renew copious supplies of oil.

On the other hand Lord Caradon points out that many in Israel are eager to have a humane relationship with the Palestinians, though he omits to acknowledge that what prevents them from developing this in many ways an international insistence that they must do so by inviting into the nest that political cuckoo the PLO.

To herald the New Year in your columns, can I beg for less eagerness in reparsing or supporting cuckoos of all kinds? Yours faithfully,
MALLORY WOBER,
17 Lancaster Grove, NW3

The bad luck of the toss is England's passport to disaster

The England side would have given up their match fee, I am sure, for the right to field first. But it was not to be. The captains delayed tossing for as long as possible, thinking that the drizzle which had fallen for most of the morning might return; it was not until a quarter of an hour before the start that Chappell and Brearley spun a coin and Australia put England in. Tea having been taken, there was nearly two hours and a half left for play, in which time the odd ball did more than

Well as they took their opportunity—they bowled straight and to a full length, which are the two golden rules for bowling on drying pitches, especially in this country — Australia's success may have seemed a little hollow to them. Tomorrow, when they go in, batting is almost bound to be easier. As he was in England's

Gooch steps out. Ian Chappell in a flat spin trying to steal a match on England

As often as not the bowlers had every fielder round the bat. To enjoy their progress there was a crowd of perhaps 5,000. There would obviously have been more had there not seemed, earlier in the day, to be little chance of play. With England in such trouble there should be a larger crowd tomorrow. Australia are

I can well imagine some of the old masters — say Hobbs and Sutcliffe and Hutton and Compston — coping as things were this afternoon. I saw Hutton doing so, on an appreciably worse pitch, though not for so long as two hours and a half, at Brisbane in 1950. I think Cowdrey might have done it, and Arthur Milton and M. J. K. Smith. But it was far from easy — and for England's present barring a pitch as ill-

prepared as this one is almost	
invariably a passport to disaster.	
ENGLAND: First innings	
G. A. Hirst	0
C. Boycott	8
D. Randall	8
L. Hughes	0
P. D. White	5
J. M. Brearley	5
D. J. Gower	7
P. H. Parry	3
P. H. Parry	27
G. R. Blythe	27
Extras	1
Total 17 wickets	90
did not bat	0
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-13,	
3-14, 4-15, 5-15, 6-15,	
7-16, 8-16, 9-16, 10-21,	
11-22, 12-22, 13-22,	
14-22, 15-22, 16-22,	
17-22, 18-22, 19-22,	
20-22, 21-22, 22-22,	
23-22, 24-22, 25-22,	
26-22, 27-22, 28-22,	
29-22, 30-22, 31-22,	
32-22, 33-22, 34-22,	
35-22, 36-22, 37-22,	
38-22, 39-22, 40-22,	
41-22, 42-22, 43-22,	
44-22, 45-22, 46-22,	
47-22, 48-22, 49-22,	
50-22, 51-22, 52-22,	
53-22, 54-22, 55-22,	
56-22, 57-22, 58-22,	
59-22, 60-22, 61-22,	
62-22, 63-22, 64-22,	
65-22, 66-22, 67-22,	
68-22, 69-22, 70-22,	
71-22, 72-22, 73-22,	
74-22, 75-22, 76-22,	
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S African tour is approved by RFU

Albert Ferrasse, the French Rugby Federation chairman, also welcomed the decision. He said: "It is a courageous decision. It is a very good thing that one does not mix sports and politics."

England's problem of finding fit forwards

they will be able to assess the degree of Nigel Horton's fitness at lock and the potential of men like Nick Mallett and Simon Jones on the Rest flank. Trevor Cheeseman has a good chance to confirm his

If he misses the chance to compete with Campbell this will be the only change in Ireland's top 30 men.

Random Leg's path home should be more straightforward this time

For those with short memories, Random Leg is the horse who won the Ramsbury Hurdle at Newbury eight days ago only to be disqualified. Before that he had won at Cheltenham equally convincingly. The reason for his disqualification was a violent swerve after the last hurdle. Provided that he keeps straight this time he ought to be too good for See Image. Rhyme Royal appears to have a harder task in his race, but he should still be the equal of it judged on the way that he

Includes five who should have run in the Bass Steeplechase at Cheltenham on New Year's Day, but for frost intervening. They are Peter Scot, Prince Rock, Modesty Forbids, Desopea and Gylippus. Prince Rock will be meeting Peter Scot on 3 lb better terms than when they finished first and third in the Welsh Grand National just before Christmas, so in theory there should be much less between them now. Prince Rock's trainer, Peter Bailey, poses a problem by running

Kempton Park to make me think that he might be up to it. At Kempton he finished fifth, in front incidentally of Strombolus, who he will be meeting on 11th better terms.

Ridley Lamb's long journey south to Sandown from his home in Northumberland paid off yesterday when he won the first division of the Metropolitan Novices Hurdle on Fata Morgana. This was the first time that Lamb had ridden around the Esher course, which takes some know-

loosened him up with a course of dressage at which she is so accomplished.

Nimrody was the first winner that Richard Linley has ridden for Winter, who promptly won the next race with Pardon. Whether he would have done so though if the favourite, Boardman's Special, had not completely misjudged the second last hurdle is a matter of personal judgment. In my opinion Boardman's Special had the race at his mercy at the time and that

Spartan Missile odds

Two leading bookmakers report backing for Spartan Missile for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Hills have shortened the odds from 25-1 to 20-1 and Corals have gone further and reduced them to 16-1.

STATE OF GOING (official): Sandown Park, soft; Haydock Park, soft (7.30 am inspection); Market Rasen, soft, Monday; Leicester, heavy (cardes); soft (steepchase); Sedgfield, heavy.

Dikaro Lady to rebuff worthy suitors

mature Factors Handicap. There
 are only four runners in this two-
 mile steeplechase, but the quarter-
 mile won last time out; Fairy King
 of Towcester, Duc de Bolebec for
 the fourth time this season at Ayr,
 Mr Marisbridge at Cheltenham and
 Arkar Lady by a handsome 15
 lengths at Sedgefield. Now that
 Arkar Lady has found her best
 form she is a confident selection to
 take the trophy back to Harewood.
 Arkar Lady's trainer and
 jockey, Tony Dickinson and
 Jimmy Carmody, are also asso-

Bamp is reported to have been well schooled at Malton and should be too good for the form horse, Havertill Lad.

If racing is possible at Haydock, the soundest wager should be Hot Tomato in the Rochdale Novices' steeplechase. Formerly rather headstrong, Hot Tomato has now settled well for Ridley Lamb. The eight-year-old jumped like a buck when successful at the Wetherby Christmas meeting and should prove too sharp for Solar Lad.

Arkaro Lady, Bamp and Hot

Neville Crump thought that Ballet Lord was not forward enough to win at Wetherby, I am flying in the face of reason and take the nine-year-old to defy his 12st 11lb. The Tote Northern Hurdle is a race to be watched with the Schweppes Gold Trophy in mind. For Easterby, who saddled the first and second in the big Newbury race last year with Within the Law and Major Thompson, runs two of his entries, Silver Shadow and Norton Cavalier.

McCaughy purchases leading stud

who has held the post for the past three years and a half years. Reliance stood second in the district last year and before that Match. Mr. Goodbody told me that his new horse was hoping to get another top-class stallion for the stud in time for the 1981 covering season. Over the last few years, he has had a very good host of winners and runners. Happily this sale does not mean that he will be turning his back on the place. On the contrary, he intends, perhaps at least seven years hence, although most of his horses are sold with their stud readings will be kept on his Irish stud in County Kildare.

Haydock Park programme

1-1	Peaty Sandy	1-1	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
2-2	Peaty Sandy	2-2	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
3-3	Peaty Sandy	3-3	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
4-4	Peaty Sandy	4-4	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
5-5	Peaty Sandy	5-5	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
6-6	Peaty Sandy	6-6	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
7-7	Peaty Sandy	7-7	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
8-8	Peaty Sandy	8-8	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
9-9	Peaty Sandy	9-9	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
10-10	Peaty Sandy	10-10	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
11-11	Peaty Sandy	11-11	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
12-12	Peaty Sandy	12-12	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
13-13	Peaty Sandy	13-13	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
14-14	Peaty Sandy	14-14	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
15-15	Peaty Sandy	15-15	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
16-16	Peaty Sandy	16-16	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
17-17	Peaty Sandy	17-17	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
18-18	Peaty Sandy	18-18	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
19-19	Peaty Sandy	19-19	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
20-20	Peaty Sandy	20-20	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
21-21	Peaty Sandy	21-21	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
22-22	Peaty Sandy	22-22	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
23-23	Peaty Sandy	23-23	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
24-24	Peaty Sandy	24-24	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
25-25	Peaty Sandy	25-25	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
26-26	Peaty Sandy	26-26	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
27-27	Peaty Sandy	27-27	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
28-28	Peaty Sandy	28-28	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
29-29	Peaty Sandy	29-29	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
30-30	Peaty Sandy	30-30	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
31-31	Peaty Sandy	31-31	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
32-32	Peaty Sandy	32-32	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
33-33	Peaty Sandy	33-33	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
34-34	Peaty Sandy	34-34	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
35-35	Peaty Sandy	35-35	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
36-36	Peaty Sandy	36-36	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
37-37	Peaty Sandy	37-37	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
38-38	Peaty Sandy	38-38	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
39-39	Peaty Sandy	39-39	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
40-40	Peaty Sandy	40-40	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
41-41	Peaty Sandy	41-41	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
42-42	Peaty Sandy	42-42	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
43-43	Peaty Sandy	43-43	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
44-44	Peaty Sandy	44-44	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
45-45	Peaty Sandy	45-45	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
46-46	Peaty Sandy	46-46	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
47-47	Peaty Sandy	47-47	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
48-48	Peaty Sandy	48-48	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
49-49	Peaty Sandy	49-49	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
50-50	Peaty Sandy	50-50	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
51-51	Peaty Sandy	51-51	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
52-52	Peaty Sandy	52-52	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
53-53	Peaty Sandy	53-53	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
54-54	Peaty Sandy	54-54	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
55-55	Peaty Sandy	55-55	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
56-56	Peaty Sandy	56-56	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
57-57	Peaty Sandy	57-57	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
58-58	Peaty Sandy	58-58	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning
59-59	Peaty Sandy	59-59	Mr S. Chesmore	6-10-2	C. Lanning

Sandown Park programme

[illegible]

2.30 TOLWORTH HURDLE (£2,415 : 2m)

[illegible]

Sandown results yesterday

[illegible]

\$367,000 for Conteh

John Conteh will earn a record \$367,000 for his return bout with the world light-heavyweight champion, Matthew Saad Muhammad, of United States. Purse offers for the contest were opened in Mexico City last night and the best bid was \$815,400 from the American promoting company, Top Rank. Conteh will probably train in the Caribbean to escape the English winter.

15	02	Brace, G. Balding, 6-11-5	H. Milma
16	50	Marshall Bell, D. Garrison, 8-11-5	I. Co
17	102000	Brims, T. Hallen, 5-11-5	P. Chan
20	040-000	Meadow Walk (D), W. Young, 6-11-5	B. Wright
22	000000		P. Mar

[illegible]

1.45 FURNITURE FACTORS CHASE (Handicap : £1,520 : 2m)

212031 Mr. Marisbridge (D), D. Fairbank, 7-10-5 D. Goulding
 212032 Mr. Marisbridge (D), D. Fairbank, 7-10-5 D. Goulding
 7-10 Duree Lady (D), A. Dicalms, 7-10-1 Y. Carmichael
 7-4 Dikoro Lady, 9-4 Mr. Marisbridge, 4-1 Fairy Kings, 4-1 Duc de
 Bolobee.

Haydock Park selections

By Michael Seely

1.0 Go Wimp, 1.30 HOT TOMATO is especially recommended. 2.0
 Ballet Lord. 2.30 Peaty Sandy, 3.0 Prince of Normandy, 3.30 Fridy

W. 10-1 Shawmut, 10-1 Ouders.
* Doubtful

Our Racing Correspondent
 Gambling Prince. 1.30 **RANDOM LEG** is specially recommended.
 2.05 **KAR. 2.30 Rhyme Royal.** 3.0 Pine Brook. 3.30 British Crown.

Market Rasen selections
 Michael Seely
 1.45 **Friday Friendly** (if absent Tidy Work). 1.15 Bamp. 1.45 **DIKARO**
 2.05 is specially recommended.

Market Rasen selections

45 Priddy Friendly (if absent Tidy Work). 1.15 Bamp. 1.45 DIKARO
DY is specially recommended. 2.15 Mountain Hays. 2.45 Current
ld. 3.15 Caxton Hall

Haydock Park selections

1.0 Go Wimpy. 1.30 HOT TOMATO is especially recommended. 2.0 Ballet Lord. 2.30 Peaty Sandy. 3.0 Prince of Normandy. 3.30 Priddy Friendly (if absent June King).

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets

FT 100 413.9 up 7.0
FT 100 413.9 up 7.0Sterling
\$2.286 down 18p
Index 70.3 down 0.2Dollar
Index 84.4 down 0.1Gold
\$590 an ounce down \$403-month money
Inter-bank 15 12/16 to
15 15/16
Euro 5 14 9/16 to 14 11/16

IN BRIEF

Nigeria puts
up price of
crude oil to
\$30 a barrel

Nigeria has increased the price of its crude oil from \$27 to \$30 a barrel, Mr Festus Marinho, the managing director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, said.

He said the price rise, effective from December 17, was intended to restore the "international competitiveness" of Nigeria's crude.

There had been reports that the country had increased its oil price to nearly \$35 a barrel, but Mr Marinho denied this.

He said the oil increase would not affect the price of petroleum products sold to Nigerian consumers.

Clothing plant to close

All 900 workers at the John Collier clothing factory in Middlesbrough were told yesterday that they will lose their jobs when the plant closes in April because of falling orders. John Collier is part of the United Drapery stores group.

US money supply up

The United States basic money supply—M1—rose to a seasonally adjusted \$281.700m (about £173,500m) in the week ended December 26, from \$279,700m the previous week. The broader money supply, known as M2, rose to an average of \$349,500m in the week from \$347,000 a week ago, the Federal Reserve reported.

Textile talks resume

Negotiations between Hongkong and America will resume talks in Hongkong next week on the 1980 application of the bilateral textile agreement. Hongkong is expected to restrain flexibility and to shift some exports from other years into 1980.

US mission to Tokyo

America plans to send Mr Robert Hormats, deputy international trade negotiator, to visit Japanese government officials in Tokyo to head off friction in trade relations. He will confer on the large increase in Japan's exports of cars and steel products.

Dearer smoking

Carreras Rothmans announced rises of 1p for a packet of 20 cigarettes and 2p for a packet of 10 cigarettes of some brands to take effect next Wednesday. Some pipe tobacco prices rise by up to 1p on 25g packs.

Steel output jumps

European steel production rose to its highest level for three years last year according to estimates published yesterday by the EEC Commission. Overall Community production was estimated to have totalled 140 million tonnes compared with 132 million tonnes in 1978 and 127 million tonnes in 1977.

Swedish reserves fall

The Bank of Sweden's foreign exchange reserves ended December at 15,210m Kroner (£1,653m) down from the November figure of 15,580m Kroner (£1,693m) and 18,380m Kroner (£1,997m) at the end of 1978, a net drop of 3,170m Kroner (£344m).

Wall Street up

On the New York Stock Exchange yesterday the Dow Jones industrial average climbed to 828.84. Against the SDR the US dollar was 1.32183 and the pound was 0.591220.

West Germany asks
bankers to support list of
sanctions against Iran

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Jan 4

The West German Government has proposed that the country's banks should adopt a four-point list of sanctions against Iran in support of the United States struggle to secure the release of the American hostages in the Tehran embassy.

The measures, drawn from a long list of suggestions presented to the Bonn government at the beginning of last month by a visiting American delegation, were outlined last week to representatives of the nation's banking industry, government sources disclosed today.

The Swiss National Bank in Zurich also confirmed that it has had at least two intensive contacts with the large Swiss banks at the highest level to achieve a measure of solidarity with the Americans.

Dr Günter Ober, a state secretary at the Bonn finance ministry, met the German bankers a week ago and suggested that they should grant new credit to Iranian state or quasi-state institutions.

He also proposed that no new sight or term accounts should be opened for the official Iranian bodies at German banks; that there should be no increase in existing non-dollar deposits held by Iranian state or banking institutions; and that in the event of an Iranian borrower defaulting or otherwise not complying with the terms of an existing credit, the banks should not hesitate to declare it in default.

It has been proposed that the banks adopt the measures on a voluntary basis. According to

Bonn government sources, the package represents the farthest that the West German Government felt it could go in recommending financial sanctions from a long list of proposals produced by Mr Richard Cooper and Mr Anthony Solomon, the American junior ministers who visited Bonn last month.

However, it appears that German bankers are not keen to accept the measures. Last week's meeting was the last of several and, although the government sources said it passed off more smoothly than earlier meetings, it is clear that the various banking federations have strong reservations.

First there is an apparent difference in views over when the sanctions should be applied. The government apparently believes that the banks should be implementing the four points even before the question of sanctions is raised in the United Nations Security Council. The banks on the other hand see the four points as applying only in the extreme case of the United Nations deciding to back the American case.

The banks are uncomfortable at the voluntary nature of the package and would prefer sanctions, if they must come, to be imposed under the wide provisions of the West German external economic policy law.

This empowers the federal government to restrict legally established transactions with institutions abroad in the interests of preventing a disturbance of the peaceful coexistence of the peoples of the world or

of the external relations of the federal republic.

Bankers are also worried that any action they might be forced to take against Iran might have a negative effect on their business with other Third World nations and in particular reduce their role in handling the oil wealth of the Gulf states.

It appears that the authorities in Zurich have not gone as far in accommodating American wishes as those in Bonn. The Swiss National Bank did, however, inform the banking community that the Americans did not wish to see Zurich taking over the Iranian business now barred to banks in the United States.

Ronald Pullen, Banking Correspondent, writes: "Anxious to discourage speculation that similar measures to those suggested to the German banks were contemplated in the United Kingdom, both the Bank of England and senior clearing bankers said last night that no contingency plans had been drawn up to govern British attitudes to Iran in the event of United Nations economic sanctions."

Despite continuing discussions between the clearers and the Bank of England, Iranian requests to withdraw funds from London, the hope is that banking relationships with Iran should function as normally as possible.

The Bank of England continues to insist that any disputes between Iran and the British banking system should be settled through the courts rather than by official action,

Iranian oil cuts on Shell and BP
raise fears of wider clampdown

By Nicholas Hirst

Oil company analysts are speculating whether the sharp cut in contract deliveries agreed with British Petroleum and Shell this week may indicate that Iran is intending to cut its total production by a further one million barrels a day.

Volumes of oil promised in nine-month contracts to Shell and BP are less than half the quantities both companies were lifting in the final quarter of 1979 and a fraction of what used to be delivered from Iran.

But companies hope to be able to continue to meet the requirements of their group affiliates but much will depend on the severity of the winter and the growing recession.

Iran is supplying 95,000 barrels a day to Shell in place of the 195,000 barrels a day in

the last quarter of 1979 and 125,000 barrels a day and some products to BP instead of the former 365,000 barrels a day.

The losses worry both. Shell has had its Iraq supplies cut by 5 per cent; BP has lost 50,000 agreed barrels a day from its contracts with BP and Nigeria and has had its Abu Dhabi supplies cut.

If gas compressors continue to work successfully on Shell/Esso's Brent field in the North Sea, production should be increased by 35,000 barrels a day without breaking government flaring restrictions. Unless demand is reduced the added supplies will not make up the amount the group has lost.

If Iran produces, as Mr Ali Akbar Moinefar, the oil minister, has said it will, between 3 million and 3.5 million barrels a day, the oil will flow into the system and BP and Shell

should be able to pick up what is required.

But there are doubts whether it is possible to offer the volumes Iran appears to have on the spot market without reducing the price below the \$30 agreed in Shell, BP and Japanese contracts. These contracts total about 720,000 barrels a day.

President Carter's embargo gives Iran an extra 700,000 barrels a day and there are few obvious buyers for all Iran's available oil.

The obvious conclusion is that Iran plans to produce at nearer 2 million barrels a day. If so oil analysts still estimate that there is sufficient oil in the world system, if Saudi Arabia continues to produce at 9.5 million barrels a day, to prevent any shortages developing.

Talbot UK expected to
announce £40m loss

Talbot Motor Company, formerly Chrysler, was expected to announce losses of about £40m in 1979, a company spokesman said yesterday. Strikes and the suspension of deliveries of Avenger components to Iran are blamed for a doubling of losses. The contract for the Paykan, which is the Iranian name for the Avenger, accounted for 30 per cent of Talbot's turnover.

Edward Townsend writes: United Kingdom new car sales are likely to fall by about 12 per cent this year compared with 1979. By March, 1981, prices will have risen by a further 15-20 per cent, Mr Michael Glassy, director of Glassy's Guide, the motor trade's chief source of price information, has forecast in the current issue of Credit, the journal of the Finance Houses Association. He expects sales to drop to 1.5 million against last year's record of 1.7 million, with exports of fully assembled new cars unlikely to exceed 400,000 units, a slight fall on the 1979 figure.

With the United Kingdom motor industry facing the prospect of reduced home sales and a sluggish overseas market, total production will do well to meet the 1 million mark, says Mr Lacey, and imports again will capture about 56 per cent of domestic sales.

Average new car prices rose

by 20 per cent last year, resuming a familiar trend after the brief respite in 1978 when the price of a typical new 1300cc car rose by only 12 per cent.

Datsun UK, which has remained quiet in recent months over the issue of Japanese car imports, yesterday voiced bitter complaints against Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders for causing hardship to its dealers and giving the United Kingdom market "on a plate" to other foreign manufacturers.

If sales had gone to BL, as was intended by the Japanese restraint on British sales, there could be less cause for complaint, the spokesman said. Clifford Webb writes: Imported cars could account for 75 per cent of the British market by April if the steel strike lasts for a month, it was claimed last night. This compares with the importers' present 60 per cent market share.

Mr Tony Aplin, a senior partner of Aplin Philimore Associates, the Wembley business consultants specializing in the motor industry, said: "BL are launching a major Superdeal sales campaign and this now runs the risk of stimulating a peak of demand when stocks become depleted."

Bowring
fails to halt
bid move

By Richard Allen

C. F. Bowring has apparently failed in its attempt to use the courts to ward off an unwelcome takeover bid from Marsh & McLennan, the American insurance broking company.

A Federal judge in New York rejected Bowring's application for a restraining order designed to prevent Marsh from using confidential information supplied by the British company during earlier negotiations on a premium pooling plan.

A similar action by insurance brokers Bowring has yet to be heard in the High Court in London.

If the United States court had been successful, Marsh could have been severely limited in a takeover bid by Security & Exchange Commission rules which demand full disclosure on the part of the bidder.

Marsh announced that it was considering a bid after negotiations on the premium pooling plan broke down before Christmas.

Bowring is still free to pursue an action against Marsh on the basis of confidential information but it cannot now prevent the American group launching the bid.

Northerners prepare for big sales campaign with cheaper pints
Beer fight for the clubs comes to a head

The Northern Clubs Federation Brewery, the Newcastle upon Tyne-based cooperative, is set for substantial sales expansion from the middle of next month, including supplying non-club outlets in the free trade.

Notably cheaper beers produced by the Fed, as it is better known, have already appeared in places in the south of England, including the bar of the House of Commons. But next month the Fed's new brewery at Dunston, near Newcastle, comes into operation, quadrupling production capacity to 40,000 barrels a week.

It will mean an increased sales thrust that will still largely be towards the club (there are 32,000 clubs compared with 2,000 pubs in the free trade), but the Fed is also ready to supply pubs or off-licences.

With the large commercial brewers tending to reduce their number of tied houses, which are usually sold off into the free trade, the price competition offered

by the Fed could become more than a marginal factor in the pubs sector.

However, the immediate battleground will be the clubs all kinds into which the Fed has already made great penetration after its beginnings in supplying the northern working men's clubs.

The Fed at present has 700 club shareholders and trades with a further 600 clubs as well as a few non-club outlets in the North-east. The major brewers have slices of the club trade but inroads by the Fed could prove stiff competition, particularly for some regional brewers.

There is often a price difference of 4p to 5p a pint at the bar with club beers compared to prices in the pub. But the Fed also has a cooperative hands cash dividends to customers of £4.50 a barrel.

This gives markedly better returns than the quantity discounts offered by other brewers, it claims. The Fed has

Issue of £1,000m tap stock faces
cool reception in market

By John Whitmore

The government is to continue its funding programme through the £1,000m issue of a new gilt-edged stock, Exchange 14 per cent 1984.

The stock will be offered for sale by tender next week, with application lists closing on Thursday morning. At the minimum tender price of 99 1/2 per cent, the running yield would be 14.31 per cent and the gross redemption yield 15.13 per cent.

Initial market reaction was cool, and many stocks less than 100p were sold earlier in the day. Long dated stocks, for instance, often finished only 30p higher, having been up to 100p higher ahead of the Bank of England announcement.

The general feeling was that there would have to be appreciable improvement in the news

background for the stock to attract any substantial application next week. A limited initial response to the issue may not, however, worry the authorities.

Although they have not achieved a vast amount of funding so far in the January banking month, they appear to be keener at this stage simply to see that there is an adequate supply of stock available over the next few weeks.

This is because substantial sums should become available for reinvestment. Large interest payments on existing gilt-edged stocks fall due in the last two weeks of January, and it seems reasonable that most holders of the Treasury 9 per cent convertible stock, due for conversion or redemption on March 3, will opt to take the cash.

The rights, which offer conversion into 510 nominal of a 9 per cent stock redeemable in

the year 2000, cannot be considered attractive to most holders, and the Bank of England is counselling investors who feel uncertain to seek professional advice.

The generally firmer tone in the gilt market yesterday reflected hopes that the steel dispute might be settled relatively quickly and without too many damaging consequences. Even so, the mood of the market remains cautious in the light of the international uncertainty and the expectation that it may be some weeks before domestic interest rates can start to fall significantly.

This mood of caution was also seen in the weekly Treasury Bill tender. For the second week running, the average rate of discount at which bills were allotted edged up marginally. The rise this week was from 15.8421 to 15.8434 per cent.

NEB may get more say on chief

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

The Government is considering tabling an amendment to the Industry Bill which will give the National Enterprise Board much greater influence in the appointment of future chief executives.

This move will be seen as a small, but significant, victory for the new board and Sir Arthur Knight, its chairman, who were appointed by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, after the resignation of the former board members over the controversy surrounding the Rolls-Royce from the NEB to the Industry Department.

Under the provisions of the Bill now before Parliament the appointment of a chief executive is made mandatory instead of voluntary, and it is insisted that the chief executive should be a board member. The choice is a decision for the Industry Secretary.

The former board and Sir Leslie Murphy, its chairman, criticized the proposed change in the existing legislation and said that the present arrangements reflected a proper division between policy functions and management functions.

The changes contained in the Bill, it was argued, carried the risk of confusing reporting lines as well as a step in the direction of government interference in the management functions of the NEB.

Under its new chairman the

present board, having similar misgivings, appointed Mr Ian Halliday as chief executive from the beginning of next month.

His appointment followed an approach from Sir Arthur Knight and was made with the approval of Sir Keith Joseph.

Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, said: "The Government's preliminary view is that it would be right to give the board of the NEB and that of each of the agencies (the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies) a reasonable degree of influence in the selection of the chief executive with whom they will be expected to work."

Russians well placed
to benefit from
West's gold fever

By Michael Binyon

Moscow, Jan 4

The cause of the gold fever now sweeping the money markets in London, New York and Hongkong was the capitalist system itself, the communist party newspaper Pravda said today.

"No matter how western politicians and economists try to blame some extraneous factor such as price increases on oil, for the growing difficulties, the cause of the crisis is the very system that rests on private property and the exploitation of man by man," the paper said.

Capitalism was characterised by its spontaneous character and by its squandering of resources.

But the Russians are well placed to take quick advantage of this chronic illness. They have some of the largest deposits of gold in the world.

The subject of gold, however, is a closely guarded state secret. Production figures are not issued and no Russian will ever talk about how gold is sold, in what quantities or where.

Westerners have never been allowed to visit Soviet gold producing areas or to speak to those involved in the metal's extraction.

The main gold producing areas are in Siberia along the banks of the Lena river. The deposits are generally strip-mined using huge machines. But the Russians do allow a system reminiscent of California during the gold rush—individual panning and mining by licensed operators.

These miners are generally experienced people who have worked for the state gold mining concern and have acquired enough money to buy bulldozers themselves.

Working usually in groups of about 30, they are encouraged to exploit the smaller deposits

that are not economic if mined with the vast strip-mining machinery.

The miners have to turn their gold in to the state and are paid according to its value. They work in conditions of isolation and in a harsh, remote landscape and are usually only able to operate during the summer months.

Western economists estimate that until recently the cost of extracting gold was slightly higher than the price of it on the world markets. But this is taking the official rouble conversion rate and hard currency.

The Russians sell gold fairly regularly each year, dealing through banks in Zurich. They are not known to have sold on the Hongkong or London bullion markets.

There is no indication that the Russians have taken advantage yet of spectacular rise in the price of gold, although jewellery made of gold and sold in tourist shops in Moscow increased considerably in price in the summer.

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It was thought that he was unable to agree with Mr Gordon about the future of the Harry Fepton men's retailing chain.

In the past six months the CES share price has been underperforming in the stores sector and among the clothing groups it has only managed to perform better than Wallis Fashions.

In June CES raised £4m by a two for five rights issue at 52 1/2p. Last month the group paid up to £5m for Mr Mercado, a carpet importer and wholesaler.

In the wake of CES's poor first half profits, which slipped from £1.7m to £400,000 pre-tax, and the difficult trading conditions for stores groups, City analysts have been downgrading forecasts for year-end results. Most estimates now centre on £3.5m for the year to January 31, 1980, compared to a previous £5.5m.

As an underwriting member of the Sasse insurance syndicate at Lloyd's, Mr Gordon faces problems elsewhere. The 116 members of the syndicate face claims of more than £20m (related to business in the United States) and Mr Gordon is among one group of members which is embroiled in a dispute with Lloyd's over certain lines of business.



A worker at Presman's, the precious metal dealers in Hatton Garden, London, melting down everything from watch chains to cigarette cases and wedding rings yesterday, all items bought over their counter as customers cashed in on the soaring price of gold.

Bullion price drops to
\$590 on profit taking

Continued from page 1

was also down slightly at 70.3 per cent a fall of 0.2 per cent.

Markets throughout Europe were heavily influenced by the uncertainty caused by the imminence of the weekend. No one wants to lock himself into a position on Friday night which could be embarrassing by Sunday or Monday.

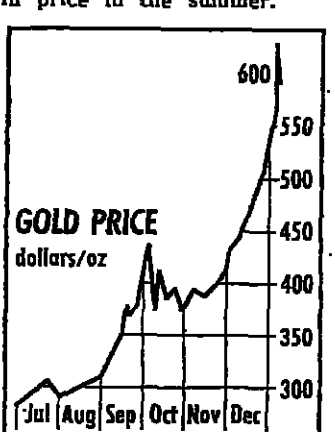
Dealers in the gold markets have responded in the traditional way, widening the spread between the price at which they buy gold and the price at which they sell to 510, a far higher figure than usual. This tends to damp down activity in the market.

The Paris market, which had suspended trading in gold Napoleons because they rose so sharply in price on Thursday, had to suspend them because they fell so much yesterday.

This weekend could be of crucial importance to prospects for the gold price in the next few weeks. If there are new doubts about American/Iranian relations or a worsening in the situation in Afghanistan, there could be a new surge of interest in the metal.

But authorities in the United States clearly hope that, once it can be shown that the momentum behind the latest rise has gone, there will be heavy selling to take profits before the gold price plunges, as it has in the past after a similar sharp rise.

Silver prices continued to retreat yesterday. At the morning bullion fix, "spot" lost 185.05p to 1463.05p per troy ounce and three months was 190.10p down to 1518p. Platinum dropped 75 to 730.

Stores group denies
sale of outlets

By Alison Mitchell

Speculation in the stock market that Combined English Stores is about to make a major disposal was dismissed yesterday by Mr Murray Gordon, the company's chairman.

"Not only are we not selling any of our subsidiaries, but we are about to make a couple of purchases," he said.

In the market it is being suggested that the group is having problems with Harry Fenton and Kendall & Sons, its fashion outlets, after the difficult autumn and winter seasons experienced by most companies in this sector.

Wallis Fashions, a similar retail outlet, had to be rescued by Sears Holdings at the end of last year after heavy losses and both Fenton and Kendall are thought to have been losing money in the current year.

For the past two months there has been much speculation that Fenton was up for sale. This has been denied by Mr Gordon.

Just before Christmas Mr Edward de Winter, joint managing director of CES, announced his resignation. Although no comment or reason was given at the time, he admitted last night that "irreconcilable differences of opinion culminating in a flam-

ing boardroom row" had led to his parting.

It was thought that he was unable to agree with Mr Gordon about the future of the Harry Fepton men's retailing chain.

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PRICE CHANGES

Rises			
Cropper J.	12p to 100p	Royal Elec	11p to 190p
Fisher J.	10p to 243p	Ratner	7p to 58p
Hammond A.	20p to 715p	Thorn Elec	10p to 280p
ICL	10p to 458p	Utd Scientific	12p to 358p
Metal Box	12p to 224p	Wadkin	10p to 95p

Falls			
Balfour Beatty	551 to 527 1/2	Rustenburg	43p to 235p
Elmsburg	38c to 380c	Taverner Kuge	48c to 620c
Grosvet	40c to 700c	S.A. Land	35c to 430c
Kloof	\$4 1/2 to \$23 1/2	W Rand Cons	45c to 570c
Minorco	24p to 250p		

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank buys	Bank buys	Bank buys
Australia \$	2.05	Norway Kr	11.40	10.90
Austria Sch	20.20	Portugal Esc	112.50	108.50
Belgium Fr	66.75	South Africa Rd	1.81	1.68
Canada \$	2.68	Spain Pt	154.50	147.50
Denmark Kr	12.39	Sweden Kr	9.56	9.16
Germany Mk	8.60	Switzerland Fr	3.71	3.48
France Fr	9.08	USA \$	2.30	2.20
Germany Dm	4.21	Yugoslavia Dnr	\$1.00	47.00
Greece Dr	11.90			
Hongkong \$	99.00			
Italy Lira	1850.00			
Japan Yn	557.00			
Netherlands Gld	4.42			

Rates for small remittances between countries, by telegraphic transfer or bank drafts	
Barclays Bank International Ltd	
Differences in supply of travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.	

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Gold

You don't lose by taking a profit . . .

It is a tempting time for selling gold. Whether you own coins, bullion, jewelry, investments linked to the gold price or simply grubby trinkets, present prices look good, despite yesterday's hiccup.

The longer you have held the item, the greater the capital gain and the weaker the case for hanging on in the hope of even higher prices. Some gold objects may be worth more melted down than whole.

In the normal way, gold investment in any form is strictly for the punters or the pessimists (in this market they are frequently one and the same) and actually to buy gold now is a gamble. Even if the price does go up again after Friday's stumble, you are faced with guessing when to sell—and the simple fact that interest

rates are an attractive alternative. But the sums look much more favourable if you have held gold for some time. Selling now yields a sure and sizable profit; while rising higher gold prices offers only possible profit in the future.

Krugerrands, the popular one ounce South African gold coins, indicate how the market has moved—and how tricky it can be. About five years ago one Krugger would have cost about £70, but on Thursday the selling price was £288. It fell back yesterday though to £274.

Over the past year alone "Krugers" have doubled in value, however.

The same considerations apply to bullion proper, made more attractive by the abolition of exchange controls, and to

paper gold investments such as gold futures offered in New York and Chicago.

The point about bullion, however, is that it incurs VAT, whereas coins such as Krugers, sovereigns, Canadian "Maple Leaves" and various Chinese offerings are regarded as legal tender.

There is also the little matter of capital gains tax. All bullion, coins and jewelry are liable, above the usual exemption. Moreover, it is possible for the Inland Revenue to charge income tax if your transactions are considered to constitute dealing, rather than investment. Nevertheless, gold is no more penalized in these respects than other investments.

Tax on gold investment can be avoided entirely only by betting—literally. I. G. Index runs a betting service based on price movements in the metal, as well as in other commodities. Business has boomed in its last few days.

But, here again, it all depends on which way you think the price will move. The consolation with I. G. Index is that you can also bet on the price falling.

Michael Presti

If you have held gold for some time, selling becomes attractive.

No tax payable on sale of 'main residence'

I purchased my flat in which I lived in March, 1978, and completed the sale of it a few days ago. But from the proceeds I am buying a half-interest in a house already occupied by a friend. What is the tax situation, or likely to be, bearing in mind that I made a "profit"? (D. B. Surrey).

It does not matter what you have done with the proceeds from the sale of your flat—the tax status of the "profit" is quite unaffected by the way you have applied the monies you received. Therefore if—as it would appear—the flat which you purchased in March, 1978, was your main residence, the gain that you have made is free of capital gains tax.

Likewise, if in due time you and your friend sell your joint house the gain each of you make will be tax free, providing of course it has been the main residence of each of you, and the law has not changed in the meantime.

Can you offer some guidance on articles bought in sales? I found a beautifully embroidered blouse, which fitted me perfectly, and was about to hand over my cheque, when my husband detected a small hole in the front, which deterred me from buying it. Can you advise me whether I would have been entitled to have my money back, had I discovered the hole

after buying the article? (A. P. Southsea).

The test is whether the article is fit for its purpose—i.e. to be worn. Does the flaw on the front of the blouse render it unfit to wear? If so, you are entitled to your money back unless the defect was obvious. For example, where you have examined an article before buying it, you are assumed to have seen defects such as holes which your examination ought to have revealed. If so you cannot return it.

Generally, when an article is purchased in a sale, one is entitled to assume that it is as good as new and that the reduction in price is attributable only to the shop selling off surplus stock. On the other hand, an article may be marked as "imperfect" or "substandard". Even so, the buyer is entitled to assume that any imperfection relates to ornament or finish, and not to a latent defect which will render it unusable. Moreover, the buyer is entitled to ask and to be told the exact nature of the imperfection, in order to make up his mind whether it is worth buying.

My neighbour and I have a working arrangement whereby we borrow each other's cars when necessary, subject to it being mutually convenient. Am I right in thinking that if I am driving my neighbour's car and

have an accident the result could be that he would lose his no-claim discount, or part of it, and I would also lose my discount, even though I was not driving my car? (D. F. Taunton).

That used to be the position, where a third party was involved, since the accidental damage would have been covered by your neighbour's policy, but the third party claim would have been covered by your own policy. The position, however, has changed and now the whole claim would be met by your neighbour's policy and so it is only his policy which would

My elderly, widowed mother lives by herself in a house with a relatively high market value, but needs more income. Am I right in thinking that she can mortgage the house to increase her income? As her only sur-

living child, it would make financial sense for me for her to take that course (with the house being sold to pay off the mortgage at her death), rather than for me to try to help her financially, on a regular basis, at this stage. (A. D. Manchester).

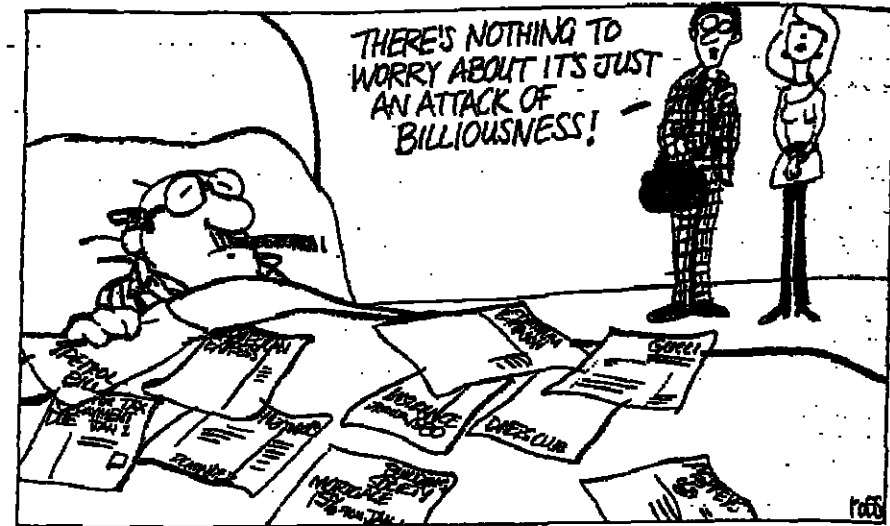
Yes, there is a limited market for the type of arrangement which you mention. As a "package deal", a mortgage can be arranged and the loan can be used to purchase an immediate annuity. Part of the benefits from that scheme the mortgage loan (but full relief of tax is allowed on interest to service a loan up to £25,000), and the balance, after tax, represents "spendable income".

A specialist firm of brokers in this field, Hinson & Wild (Insurance) Ltd, says that, for the plan to work, a widow (or single woman) must be at least 68. Incidentally, for a single man or widower, the minimum age is 65 and for joint lives (as a married couple) each must be at least 75. The higher a person's age, the more satisfactory the arrangement becomes, in terms of "spendable income" which can be made available.

If your mother should enter into such an arrangement, and then decides to live with you, or go into a nursing home, the mortgage could be repaid from the sale proceeds of the house.

The full amount of the annuity benefit would continue to be paid.

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Grouse

One of the acknowledged uncertainties in the eighties is the future of life assurance income tax relief. When premiums became payable net of 17½ per cent tax relief last April there was a strong belief that the tax concession was doomed. The return of a Conservative Government, wedded to the concept of lower taxes for all and few tax advantages for some, has not altered the outlook.

So why is at least one insurance company marketing and advertising its savings scheme on the basis of net costs? There is nothing wrong with it, but it could mislead investors—particularly those who fail to read the box of small print which points out that the net cost will vary if there are changes in tax relief.

In fact, a policy sold almost exclusively on the basis of a monthly net premium could end up costing 17½ per cent more than budgeted for, if the tax relief were removed within a policy's qualifying life span of 10 years.

Unit trusts

Specialist funds shine

Last year turned out to be a memorable one for the Britannia Trust Managers and the unitholders whose fancy turned to thoughts of gold and other metals a year ago. The comprehensive list of United Kingdom authorized unit trusts published below shows just how well Britannia's two leading funds have performed.

The Minerals fund just topped the Gold and General fund to the post with a rise of 109.5 per cent (income reinvested) against 100.7 per cent. Very few shares managed to turn in such a spectacular performance last year.

Of course, there was more to Britannia than its metal funds. Its Universal Energy fund was third overall in the league tables.

Also in the top ten was the Commodity Share fund. Being in the right sectors helped, naturally, but credit must be given to Britannia, which just had the edge on all its rivals with similar specialist funds.

These pages have long been supporters of the specialist fund concept, particularly as unitholders are becoming both

more sophisticated and more interested in taking at least some investment decisions themselves. Last year demonstrated how successful a dedicated unitholder could be.

Most people were aware of the oil problem of 1979 and how much more sense it made to concentrate on those four funds, up between 57 and 75 per cent, devoted to oil shares and shares in industries associated with oil.

But just as every dog has its off day, as well as its good one, so, too, do specialist funds. Do you remember the Japanese share funds and how well they did the previous year? Well, they are certainly looking a bit "off" when it comes 1979. They are languishing at the bottom of the tables, with S & P Japan funds hanging the dubious distinction of being the worst performing fund of the year, down 21 per cent.

Why? It was all again, of course, Japan is vulnerable to the impact of higher priced oil and the boom years its economy has enjoyed seem to be ending. And whatever happened to

the income funds? There was a time, not very long ago, when everyone was saying that to get growth you should invest in income unit trusts. The philosophy worked for a while too—and may indeed do so again if we enter another bear market or get stuck in an equity doldrums.

But 1979 was not a year for such a move. Despite the re-invested income, only a third of them managed merely to stand still.

However, it must be noted—the Japanese specialist funds apart—most of the unit trusts managed not to lose too much money for unit holders last year. The majority were within the range of 10 per cent up and 10 per cent down, which is neither much to write home about nor a source of worry.

It is, in fact, much in line with the performance of the FT industrial share index. The value of £100 invested in the Financial Times all share index became £108.2 or £91.7 if the FT industrial ordinary share index were chosen.

Margaret Stone

Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of John Drummond, Vera Di Palma, Ronald Irving and Eric Brunet

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The full amount of the annuity benefit would continue to be paid.

TAX ADVANTAGES

You can sell your units on any normal working day at the prevailing bid price. When you sell you will receive a tax credit of 10% against Capital Gains Tax. This means that on unit trusts you should not have tax to pay on profits up to £3,000 on sales in any one year, and your maximum liability is limited to 20% of your gain.

SHARE EXCHANGE SCHEME

If you wish to realise a part of your portfolio and invest in Chieftain Smaller Companies Trust, the Managers can arrange to sell your present shares for you, and will absorb all the usual expenses of the transaction. This can give you a worthwhile saving. The minimum purchase through the Share Exchange Plan is £500. Tick the box in the coupon for details.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Until 25th January 1980 units will be available at a fixed price of 25p each to give an estimated current gross yield of 4.6% p.a. Minimum investment is £250. You will not be sent a contract note but you will receive a certificate by 7th March 1980. After 25th January units are available at the daily published price.

There is an initial management charge of 5% included in the price of the units. There is also an annual charge of 3.4% (plus VAT) which has been allowed for in the quoted yield.

Income is paid net of income tax, but this can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers. Distributions and a report on the fund are made half-yearly on 31st January and 31st July 1980.

Midland Bank Trust Company Ltd is trustee to the fund.

This offer is not applicable to Eire. The Managers of the Trust are Chieftain Trust Managers Ltd, Chieftain House, 11 New Street, London EC2M 4TP. Tel 01-283 2632.

CHIEFTAIN TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED

Round-up Savings plan for soldiers

Soldiers, for some reason, seem to be more vulnerable to "hard sell" insurance sales than most people. The Army is well aware of the financial pitfalls facing its men and women and two years ago called in consultants to evaluate the needs of the "professionals" and then asked for tenders from the financial institutions.

Insurance brokers, Stewart Wrightson, which already provide some services for the armed forces, and specialist military insurance brokers, Wilson and Company, working together as Armed Forces Financial Advisory Services, "won" the contract and its Army Foundation Saving Plan has the official seal of approval.

The monthly commitment, in multiples of £5, goes entirely to the Britannia Building Society at first. Once £150 has been accumulated two insurance policies are automatically acquired as well. Both are with the Royal One a 10-year endowment and the other a 25-year contract where 40 per cent of the premiums are allocated to three other building societies. A financial counselling service is also included with the package.

The scheme is simple. It is based on a single payroll deduction and it can be maintained by a bank standing order once a military career is over.

The concentration on building society links should not mislead soldiers into thinking that the savings plan promises a mortgage. It does not, as the scheme literature will make clear. But it will give servicemen a place in the mortgage queue and the means of making their deposits grow.

The first new unit trust of the 1980 season is Chieftain Smaller Companies Trust, which made its debut on Wednesday. It is also the first unit trust to incorporate higher charges after the year-end relaxation on fees.

The initial fee is the standard 5 per cent but the annual fee is 3 per cent. The fund will concentrate on United Kingdom equities with a market capitalization of less than £10m, with the portfolio limited to about 40 shares.

If anyone had any doubts about the great wave of enthusiasm for short-term income bonds, the year-end figures from Albany Life should convince them. New single premium business increased by 187 per cent to £26.8m—of which £11m represented one and four-year income bonds.

NEW CHIEFTAIN SMALLER COMPANIES TRUST

An opportunity to invest in the successes of tomorrow

The sole aim of this new Chieftain Trust is capital growth through investment in the shares of small UK companies.

Many of today's major companies were once unknown. Kallit Electronics was a two man consultancy capitalised at £100 in 1950. Today it is capitalised at some £430 million. Bejam opened their first freezer centre as a private company in 1969. It now owns over 150 freezer centres and 38 restaurants.

In the same way some of today's unknowns will develop into tomorrow's giants. Well run small companies have enormous potential for dynamic growth: it is generally far easier for a successful £1 million company to grow to £2 million than it is for a £250 million company to grow to £500 million.

Now with a government whose policies are firmly in favour of encouraging smaller, entrepreneurial firms, this sector could prove particularly rewarding.

This is not to say, of course, that the Chieftain Smaller Companies Trust is to be regarded as a short term speculative investment; the value of units, and the income derived from them, can go down as well as up.

SELECTING THE GROWTH CANDIDATES

Possibly no task demands greater skill and experience of an investment manager

PORTFOLIO STRATEGY

The portfolio will be spread across some 40 or 50 companies to minimise risks. The managers will strive to select only outstanding growth opportunities. These are likely to be of three main types.

1. New Companies. Chieftain will be constantly researching among new companies to pin-point those which are going to grow most rapidly.

2. Recovery Companies. These are companies that have fallen behind but that seem set for a resurgence—as a result of dynamic new management, for example.

3. Take-overs. By their very nature, smaller companies are more prone to take-overs. Chieftain will rely on their keen judgement and information gleaned from contacts to select the most likely.

APPLICATION FORM

Fill in the coupon and send to Chieftain Trust Managers Limited, Chieftain House, 11 New Street, London EC2M 4TP.

I would like to buy Chieftain Smaller Companies Units to the value of £250 as 25p each. (Minimum initial holding £250).

I enclose a remittance payable to Chieftain Trust Managers Limited.

Tick box if you want maximum growth by automatic reinvestment of net income.

If you want to know how to buy Chieftain Smaller Companies Units on a regular monthly basis.

If you would like details of our Share Exchange Plan.

I declare that I am over 18.

SURNAME (MR, MRS, MISS)

FIRST NAME(S) IN FULL

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE(S)

T-31

مكتبات العامة

The tables show the value of £100 invested 12 months ago (A) and three years ago (B) income reinvested, based on offer-to-offer price. Figures supplied by Planned Savings, 150-152 Caledonian Road, London N1 9RD.

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Travel

Your holiday cash should go further

If there is one consolation to be expected in the coming year of recession, higher prices and low wage rises, it is that millions of Britons should feel a little better off during their annual summer pilgrimage to the world's sun spots.

Thanks to the continuing strength of the pound against the currencies of most of the leading holiday countries, British tourists ought to find that despite inflation the cost in sterling of enjoying the delights of the bars and night clubs of the Costa del Sol or the Venetian Riviera is the same or cheaper than last year.

Exchange rates, of course, can fluctuate greatly, but it is generally accepted that the pounds in the pockets of Britons' four million package holidaymakers will retain their relatively high spending power. In the last 12 months the pound has appreciated against most foreign currencies, including the Japanese yen, by an average of 6.4 per cent.

The table shows that sterling has increased its value against the currencies of Britons' favourite holiday countries to an extent that will absorb local inflation and, particularly in the case of the United States, provides a little extra spending money.

The Henley Centre for Forecasting reckons that the pattern will remain to the end of 1980 when the pound should be worth \$2.4, 144 pesetas and 1,770 lire. While retail prices in the United Kingdom are predicted to rise by 15.4 per cent this year, inflation is expected to be 16 per cent in Spain, 15 per cent in Italy and only 9.5 per cent in the United States.

Japan clearly will become more attractive this year, although the cost of getting there remains high, with air fares ranging from around £600 to about £1,400 for the full economy return. A minuscule inflation rate and the larger depreciation of the yen, however, have made Japanese domestic prices, when converted into sterling, much lower.

According to the Confederation of British Industry's latest

study of world living costs, car hire in Japan last April cost \$4,800 yen (about £120) a week. Today this sum is worth £103. A double room in a good hotel cost £40 per night and, at the same rate in yen, is now under £35.

Similarly, the average cost of an evening meal for four in a fashionable Italian restaurant was put at 120,000-180,000 lire last June, a sum that has since fallen in value from 572-1,107 to 567-1,011.

But probably the most attractive place of all to take those holiday pounds this year will be America, where food, entertainment and travel remain comparatively low priced. The Henley Centre estimates that United Kingdom wages and salaries will rise by 16 per cent this year and, bearing in mind lower United States inflation, the pound's value compared with last year will be showing a greater increase in Miami Beach than in Benidorm.

All these figures, however, represent only part of the package tour price picture for 1980. Prices quoted by the inclusive tour operators are, on average, 10-15 per cent up on last season, in part due to rapidly rising hotel and fuel costs. Hotel workers in countries like Spain and Portugal have become more militant and their higher wages are reflected in increased accommodation charges.

The one big uncertainty this year will be the surcharge that operators will slap on their customers. Last year, holiday companies guaranteed that the surcharge would not exceed £6 per person per week; this year it is a maximum of £10.

But by most standards, a two-week inclusive holiday in a Mediterranean resort hotel is still remarkably value for money. A cursory scan of the brochures shows that a fortnight in August on, say, Spain's Costa Brava, in Majorca or Sardinia, will cost £1,250 per person, and in many cases children's rates are much reduced.

Edward Townsend

HOW THE POUND HAS RISEN IN VALUE

	Start 1979	Start 1980	% change
Denmark—krone	10.4	11.9	+14.4
France—franc	8.5	8.9	+4.7
Germany—DMark	3.7	3.8	+2.7
Greece—Drachma	7.0	85.3	+16.8
Italy—lire	1,695.0	1,780.0	+5.0
Japan—yen	336.0	332.3	+3.4
Portugal—escudos	93.0	110.6	+18.9
Spain—pesetas	142.8	146.7	+2.7
Switzerland—S. francs	3.3	3.5	+6.1
U.S.—dollars	2.0	2.2	+10.0
Yugoslavia—dinar	41.0	42.0	+2.4

Investor's week

Equities and gilts keep their heads down

It was not just the new year and Drumbule that made us feel litherish. A few brokers happily helped Arabs out of dollars and into gold, silver and platinum but many more had naught for their comfort.

They felt like little orphans in the wet and wintry cold with noses pressed to the window pane. Imagine their yearning as they gazed at gold, silver and platinum at a crackling fire rising higher and higher.

Indeed, most of us were so miserable that we had no stomach for the usual new year boomlet in share tips. Like *Humor's Treatise of Human Nature*, they "fell dead-born from the press". Over the week, the FT index wilted from 417.8 to 413.9.

The trouble is that the stock market is now so professional, and so professional tend to agree with each other. All agree that shares will go down in the next few months; and nearly all maintain that by next December they will be well up on the good shares now, when they can be bought later on more cheaply?

It is not as if our investment world has changed a great deal in one week, despite gyrations in gold.

So Johnson & Firth Brown, in plain, point out that profits of £10.2m in the 15 months to last September would, allowing for inflation, have been losses of £4.5m; so Fedens, the lorry people, blame the engineering

strike and interest on borrowed money for the reappearance of losses; so the Department of Industry tells us that business confidence is still a little less on plant and stocks this year than it feared last autumn.

So, we might reply, what? We are still afraid of bad times, but we have yet to experience them. I suspect that the FT index will go below 350 to maybe 300 before ending the year at around 550, but it is early to say.

Some people argue that gold fever, and Afghan wars, have made the dollar a deadly blow. I demur. I still think that the price of oil will soften as a surplus of it reappears; and that most Opec countries need to keep oil flowing to pay for expensive industrialisation.

We should be thinking less about the United States and more about the huge profits to be taken in gold and oil. There are signs that this is getting under way as hopes of steel prices rather than wane.

The danger now is that we will grow feverish in our cheer. On Friday alone the FT index leapt 7 points. Take no notice.

We should keep our heads down until interest rates really are falling and that will not be until it is seen that the Government's borrowing requirement is under control. Yesterday's new tax credit scheme, that the authorities are taking no chances.

Peter Wainwright

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
419p	178p	Con Gold Fields	30p to 412p	Gold rise
280p	183p	Johnson Mat	28p to 233p	Gold, silver, refining
517p	55p	Libanon	\$3 to \$16	Bullion
276p	168p	Racal	8p to 16p	John Bentley new chm
17p	8p	Tebbit	5p to 19p	Cheap buying

Investor's crossword

The Christmas Investor's Crossword proved amazingly popular, particularly if one assumes that there must be at least ten hopefuls attempting a crossword to each successful addict who actually completes it.

Not that all those who did manage to beat the postal system and return the finished crossword to us by yesterday were correct: the winner, drawn yesterday after the bag yesterday afternoon, is John D. E. Samuel of Notting Hill, London. A £10

book token has been sent to him.

CHURCH
ONLINE
NAILS
TIES
AUSTERITY
GASBAG
ONLINE
SORORITY
RUNNING
CHASER
LIME
LIGHT
CASTS

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Booker McConnell to pay £10m for K&T

By Rosemary Unsworth
Booker McConnell, the international food, engineering and trading group, yesterday completed its acquisition of Kearley and Tonge, a food wholesaling business owned by International Stores, a subsidiary of BAT Industries.

Booker is paying about £10m in cash for the operation, which will be based on K&T's net tangible assets as at December 29, 1979, and an agreed valuation of its freehold and leasehold properties which will be acquired directly from International Stores. Booker has already paid £4.9m of the balance within fourteen days of the finalisation of the figures, which are expected to be completed before the end of next month.

K and T's annual turnover is about £150m, compared with Booker Belmont Wholesale's £340m annual turnover. K and T made a £2.2m trading loss in the year ending September 29, 1979, after charging exceptional items of £1.1m resulting from the closure of several loss-making depots. Interest on

borrowings during the same period amounted to £5m. Booker's board said that by combining K and T's business with Booker Belmont Wholesale, savings will be made on central administration costs and there will also be benefits from improved buying terms.

Rationalisation in the cash and carry operations and the delivery trade activities is also planned, which will result in redundancies.

K and T's 41 cash and carry warehouses, which account for 80 per cent of its wholesale business, are complementary to Booker's as they are sited in the south of England, South Wales and London. The delivered catering supply side has ten depots, nine of which are in England and one in Wales.

Booker said that K and T will be restored to profitability in 1980 and make a contribution to group profit in the first year, which in 1978 stood at £23.3m on turnover of £588m.

In 1979 Booker spent £2.5m in new businesses, compared to £13m the previous year.

B Paradise slips

By Baron Phillips
Paradise plunged into deeper losses during the six months to July 31, 1979. At the half-way stage the company produced a deficit of £174,000 compared with £48,000 in the same period last year.

Sales in the first-half fell from £1.1m to £967,000 but the directors attribute this to customers not wanting to take delivery of orders until well into the second half. The last six months are expected to show a higher comparative sales figure reflecting later deliveries.

The directors point out that the picture is made to look worse by the seasonal nature of the trade and the first half

always compares unfavourably with the last six months.

Since the chairman's annual statement Stoy Hayward's senior partner Mr. Alfred Davis has been brought in as the company's financial advisor. Mr. Davis, a former partner in the firm, has a view to joining the board but the company has announced that he has accepted the position of chairman and succeeds Mr. Gerald Paradise.

Over the past two years the company's margins have been under pressure from rapidly rising raw material costs.

But the board report that they are now achieving healthy margins and the second half is showing greater profitability of the trade and the first half

Howard & Wyndham passes pref.

There is more bleak news for shareholders in the publishing and printing world as Howard & Wyndham which passed a final dividend last summer.

Howard & Wyndham's directors have decided it would be imprudent to pay a dividend this month on the 9 per cent convertible cumulative preference shares 1999 and the 9 per cent special convertible cumulative redeemable preferred shares 1999.

The directors say that the decision has been taken not to pay a dividend because of the unsettled future of the general publishing trade.

For the year to June 30, 1979, Howard & Wyndham produced pre-tax losses of more than £500,000 compared with a profit in the previous year of £315,000.

The situation, say the directors, will be kept under review and if the year-end results show an improvement the full-year dividend on these shares will be declared.

FMC completes pig unit sale
The board of FMC has completed the sale to Northern Pig Development of FMC's pig development unit at Calne, Wiltshire. The sale includes the land, buildings, equipment and stocks of this unit, including a

small parcel of land and buildings at Northallerton, Yorkshire. The sale is in accordance with FMC's announced policy of rationalisation of resources into its main business.

Under the agreed terms NPD has offered continued employment to the staff of the unit. The PDU on terms not less favourable than they had with FMC.

Antony Gibbs loan to Cathay Pacific Air
Antony Gibbs Holdings has recently concluded a loan agreement for \$106.9m (H.K.) and £3.1m with Cathay Pacific Airways. Proceeds of the loan, which was made with the support of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, will be used to assist Cathay in making payment to Rolls-Royce for RE211-S24 engines and spares being supplied for the second and third Boeing 747 aircraft ordered by Cathay.

Hogg Robinson—H. Clarkson
Insurance brokers Hogg Robinson are having discussions with ship brokers and owners H. Clarkson (Holdings), which may lead to Hogg Robinson taking over Clarkson's insurance interests.

Spiralling costs hit Ciba-Geigy 1979 earnings

Basle, Jan 4.—Ciba-Geigy AG's earnings last year were not quite up to expectations, the chairman, Herr Louis von Planta said in the company's house journal, but he gave no figures.

This was the result of the company not being able to pass on higher costs, mainly caused by inflation, due to competitive reasons or government intervention. Group net profit in 1979 fell 36 per cent from 1978 to 1979, from 1,200 francs in the previous year.

Herr von Planta said, however, that volume sales were good, but again gave no figures. Group sales in 1979 fell from 9,940m to 8,930m francs—Reuter.

Agache-Willott
Paris.—Ste. Foncière et Financière Agache-Willott has completed its 700m franc takeover of the textile concern Groupe Bouscass, a subsidiary of Agache-Willott, which has been managing Groupe Bouscass companies since April last year,

acquired all Bouscass's assets through its subsidiary, Ste. Bouscass Saint-Freres SA. Under the takeover, the fashion house Ste. Christian Dior, in which the Bouscass family had a majority stake, will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bouscass Saint-Freres—Reuter.

Genstar-Flintkote
San Francisco.—Genstar Ltd reports that as a result of its recent tender offer, it currently holds about 84 per cent of the common shares of Flintkote Co. Genstar will proceed as soon as practicable with the merger of Flintkote with Genstar—AP-Dow Jones.

Fiat-Iveco
Turin.—Italian car maker, Fiat SPA, finalizing a long-planned operation, has bought a 20 per cent stake held by

Stock markets

Equities advance: golds ease back

Reports that there was still a faint hope of resolving the steel dispute gave the rest of the market the chance it had waited for to stage a rally yesterday, as the profit takers pulled out of gold.

Equities moved forward on a broad front accompanied by the way by gilt edged securities. But dealers' reported very little actual business and the rally was described as mainly technical.

The price of the bullion slipped back from \$630 to \$590 an ounce as a result of profit taking, so did gold shares following their recent spectacular gains.

EMI's 81 per cent convertible secured loan stock 1981 is now 94. It is repayable at par but Thorne may well make an offer to exchange the loan for a switch into Thorne shares at some future date. With several dividend payments to come, the stock still has appeal.

It proved to be quite a eventful day for gilts. After a slow start they picked up around mid-morning along with the rest of the market on hopes of a solution to the steel problem. The 10-year gilt edged bond rose 1/8 to 106 1/8, the 10-year gilt edged bond rose 1/8 to 106 1/8, the 10-year gilt edged bond rose 1/8 to 106 1/8.

After starting the day only 0.2 up the FT Index went on to finish 2.0 up at 413.9 aided by a strong performance from GEC and Thorne. This left the index down 3.9 on the week or 0.9 per cent.

Leading industrialists provided a firmer spot than of late. Fisons improved 5p to 262p and

gains of 4p were witnessed in ICI at 359p, Unilever at 456p, and Dunlop, which benefited from some press comment at 56p. Boveral and BAT's both managed a rise of 3p to 236p and 144p respectively while Glaxo was 1p firmer at 436p.

Electricals, which had been under a lot of pressure of late with worries over the Middle East and fears of more take over still in the offing, turned in a good performance although most of it was due to jobbers being caught short of stock. Thorne led the way with a rise of 10p to 280p where some market lines of thought was that shareholder in EMI who had accepted the shares and cash offer were now ploughing their money back into Thorne. Racal was another strong performer 11p up at 190p closely shadowed by GEC 7p better at 336p. News that Tyco Laboratories had increased its stake to 14.1 per cent stirred up more rumours that it may soon launch a full scale bid for Muirhead which finished 8p stronger at 265p.

On the bid front Highland Distillers firmed 1p to 141p after its recent dull spell while hopes of a bid from Croda lifted Sikolene 7p to 150p. G. T. Downing continued to lose

ground since its decision to take Marsh & Maclellan to court dipping 1p to 122p.

Favourable comment lifted S. & W. Barford 7p to 151p and James Cropper 12p to 100p but it had the reverse effect on Howard Tenens 31p lower at 621p. Other firm spots included United Scientific at 12p up at 358p and SET 4p higher at 119p. Associated Newspapers with figures out soon improved 5p to 251p and Racal also reporting soon jumped 7p to 58p. Speculative demand lifted Aran Energy 24p to 220p but profit taking clipped Johnson Matthey 5p to 228p.

Profit taking saw gold shares fly into reverse with the Gold Mines Index dropping 2.25 to 280.2. Anglo American Gold dipped 51p to 584.1. Vael Reels 53p to 563.1 and West Driefontein 53p to 568.1. Among the smaller mines Leslie fell 30 cents to 300 cents and Venters post 5p to 59p. The London financials saw Cons Gold slip 7p to 412p, RTZ 11p to 344p. Tanks 18p, 248p and De Beers Dvd 5p to 510.1. In platinum Impala shed 20p to 250p while Rustenburg fell 43p to 235p.

Australians continued to decline following recent adverse news from the West. Iron with Poseidon 12p off at 120p, Ashton Mining 5p lighter at 146p and Northern Mining retreating 7p to 138p.

News that oil quotas had been set by the OPEC cartel had little effect on the shares of BP unchanged at 338p and Ultramar at 418p but Shell improved 6p to 320p. Among

the second liners Lasmo was 7p better at 340p and Antock rose 4p to 174p.

A bullish circular on banks left the four major clearing banks looking healthier with National Westminster and Barclays both 7p advanced at 338p and 418p while Midland and Lloyds improved 5p to 333p and 295p.

Muirhead rose 8p to 268p. Tyco Laboratories has raised its shareholding by a further 83,000 shares to make it 14.1 per cent. So hopes of a bid are growing even though it said early last month that its newly acquired 12.3 per cent stake was not a bid prelude. It is feared that Muirhead's profits, due later this month will show a fall.

Both property and insurance were better with Hamerton "A", a volatile stock of late, jumping 30p to 715p. Elsewhere the gains were more subdued. MEPC and Land Securities were both 7p firmer at 159p and 247p. GRE expanded 4p to 226p with Commercial and General Accident both 2p up at 134p and 216p as Royal advanced 3p to 313p.

Equity turnover on January 3, was £38.17m (14,787 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were, North Katouri Mines, RTZ, Shell, GEC, Johnson Matthey, Barclays Bank, Burmah Oil, Lasmo, ICI, Racal, Vickers and Furness Withy.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
James Watt (F)	3,391(3.2)	0.08(0.27)	4.91(12.78)	2.5(4.25)	3/3	3.5(6.25)
Investment (I)	0.57(0.17)	0.13(0.48)	0.13(0.48)	—	—	—
Investment (I)	—	0.16(0.15)	—	—	—	—
Stavert Zigomata (I)	—	0.01(0.01)	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net, a=loss.

Phoenix up 16.5pc

Last year, the Phoenix Group's new sums assured, £2,000m, topped the £1,000m mark for the first time—reaching £2,006.4m, a rise of 16.5 per cent on 1978. New annuities p.a. rose from £17.1m to £20.9m, new annual premiums from £15.2m to £17.5m and new single premiums from £21.5m to £24.9m—all records. In addition, Ebor Phoenix, which started writing managed fund pensions business in 1979, has funds under management of £11m.

In the United Kingdom large increases are shown in many sectors. Sales of individual term assurances again increased markedly and sums assured for all individual policies increased by 54 per cent. The unit-linked business of Phoenix Growth Assurance also progressed on all fronts with increases of 21 per cent in annual premiums and of 36 per cent in single premiums. The exceptional increases of 1978 in group life and pensions business were consolidated in group life schemes were only 1 per cent down after last year's 90 per cent increase and in addition there was major growth in group permanent health insurance schemes.

PIONEER MUTUAL INSURANCE
In 1979, the total new annual premiums written were £3,41m (1978 £2,22m), a 54 per cent increase. The sum assured £2,474m (1978 £1,665.2m). In the ordinary branch the new annual premiums were £55.3m (1978 £48.0m) and the sum assured £2,272.2m (1978 £1,324.4m).

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT
Scottish Provident announces a substantial increase, effective January 1, 1980, in the rate of (triennially compounding) interim bonus applicable to individual pension contracts from 66.25 per cent per annum to 66.75 per cent per annum. This applies to pensions for the self-employed and "E" type contracts providing retirement and death benefits for those in employment (including "controlling" directors).

LEGAL AND GENERAL
Legal and General, Britain's second largest life assurance company, reports that in 1979, new annual premium income totalled £87.1m (1978: £91.1m) while new single premiums were £36.9m (£29.4m). United Kingdom company pensions and group life business accounted for £57.1m (£64.4m) annual

premiums of which £43.6m (£41.5m) came from insured lives and £13.5m (£12.9m) from managed funds. Single premiums were £15.6m (£18.9m). Mr. Ron Peet, chief executive, said the reduction in pensions new business premiums had been anticipated following the extraordinary increase in business in 1978 caused by the 1975 Social Security Pensions Act.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
announces an increase of 22 per cent in new ordinary life annual premium income in 1979. New pensions and group life annual premiums were 2 per cent ahead. Overall the society's new annual premium income increased by 7 per cent compared with 1978 and by 113 per cent compared with 1977. Net new ordinary life annual premiums for 1979 were £5.6m (1978: £4.6m).

New Life Business

ROYAL INSURANCE
Royal Insurance announces that in 1979, net new annual premiums increased by 5 per cent to £25.0m (1978: £23.3m). Net new single premiums were £20.5m (1978: £22.3m). In the United Kingdom there was an increase in sales of Royal's pension and retirement plans for directors, key employees and the self-employed.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA
New life sums assured written during 1979 by Liverpool Victoria Life Society, £201.6m, compared with £170.5m in 1978; new premium income, £123.3m (£97.8m). In the ordinary branch, the new sums assured were £55.3m (£48.0m), with new premium income of £22.5m (£19.3m), and in the industrial branch the new sums assured were £146.3m (£122.5m), with new premium income of £10.08m (£7.85m).

ZURICH LIFE ASSURANCE
Zurich Life achieved record new business in 1979—11,907 new policies were issued (against 4,307 in 1978), providing sums assured of £104.24m (£42.4m), and annuities of £510,000 (£743,000), secured by annual premiums of £5.3m (£1.42m), and single premiums of £17.8m (£14,000).

World stock markets v inflation

A dismal decade for most

World stock market performances were unspectacular during the decade which has just ended. Of the eighteen markets surveyed by Capital International SA, only eleven managed to show an increase and only five rose by over 100 per cent, while seven actually registered a decline.

Against a background of galloping inflation, this is indeed a dismal performance. In fact, only the markets in the top four countries, Hongkong, Singapore, Norway and Japan, showed profits in real terms. The table below compares the level of the Capital International stock market indices in local currencies to that of the latest national consumer price indices available.

Stock market performances were very divergent, ranging from +462 per cent to -48 per cent, with the Far Eastern countries leading the league and the smaller European countries at the bottom of the list. The United States had an almost neutral performance during the period.

Inflation ranged between +62 per cent (Switzerland) and +275 per cent (Spain). Low inflation did not necessarily lead to good market performance, since both the Swiss and German markets showed falls over the period. The country with the worst inflation record, however, also registered the worst stock market decline.

The "World Index", a weighted arithmetic average of the performance of the 18 markets expressed in United States dollars, was up 31 per cent, while the price of gold rose by a multiplier of 15. Capital International first launched 14 national stock market indices in 1969. In the early seventies, four more markets were added, bringing the total number of indices calculated daily to 18. These indices are fully comparable with one another because they are constructed on the same design principles and are adjusted by the same formulae. They share identical base date of January 1, 1970=100.

Capital International Stock Market Indices* in local currencies Dec 31 1979

Dec 31 1979	available
Hongkong	562
Singapore	341
Norway	265
Japan	249
Canada	207
UK	143
Austria	134
Denmark	124
France	114
Belgium	110
US	104
Australia	99
Sweden	97
Switzerland	93
Germany	85
Netherlands	84
Italy	54
Spain	52
The World Index:	131; *Base Data
January 1 1970 = 100	

[illegible]

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 28. Dealings End, Jan 11. 5 Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21.
 5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

6 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the Index of 150 Industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated to cover the period of non-publication.

